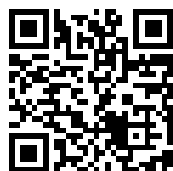

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BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Report for the year
1974

LONDON
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PART I

General Review 1974

His Excellency Mr. Walter Wilkinson Wallace, C.B.E., D.S.C. took office as Governor of the British Virgin Islands on 29th July on the departure of his predecessor Mr. Derek George Cudmore, C.B.E. whose tour of duty had expired.

1974 was a year of consolidation and mild expansion for the domestic economy despite the difficult international economic situation. Government's basic economic policy for the territory, however, continues to be the orderly development and expansion of tourism; the promotion of the area as a tax relief centre and the resuscitation of agriculture and the fishing industry.

Financially, the Government's recurrent expenditure budget came under considerable pressure as a result of world-wide inflation generally and the rapid increase in fuel prices in particular. Further, expenditure was affected by the implementation of salaries increases retroactive to July 1973. On the revenue side there was a minimal overall increase accruing mainly from customs duties under the new c.i.f. based Customs Tariff, electricity receipts as a result of a new tariff revision, and taxes and licences generally.

During the year under review major private development projects completed included a Shopping Centre at Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour; extensions to Sebastians and Sugar Mill Hotels on north western Tortola; and a yacht maintenance facility and furniture factory on Wickhams Cay II. Construction continued on the Prospect Reef Hotel, a hotel/marina complex of 105 units which will be capable of accommodating 320 guests on completion next year; and development of phase 1 investment by Village Cay Marina on Wickhams Cay I. Development planned for the island of Anegada suffered a major set-back, however, when negotiations with the Development Corporation of Anegada on proposals for a large tourist/residential development had to be terminated as it was learnt that the parent company, the Sterling Bank and Trust Company of Cayman, had gone into voluntary liquidation. A feasibility study of the area has, however, been completed by the company.

In the public sector some \$800,000, mainly from Development Aid sources, was spent in completing work on a new Primary School and extending another; on the construction of a new Plaza Office Block, Road Town and of a new Police Station at West End; on the

provision of electricity for Anegada; and on major road works on the Ridge, Joes Hill/Cane Garden Bay roads.

Negotiations are continuing with Her Majesty's Government with a view to reaching agreement on a new Double Taxation Relief Agreement with the United Kingdom as well as approval for the introduction of legislation to provide for exemption from income tax of certain Companies, Partnerships and Trusts who may elect to be registered as "Exempt Bodies" under the proposed Ordinance.

A matter of major significance was the completion of the Cadastral Survey and Registration Project by the Regional Cadastral Survey Team under U.K. Technical Assistance. The project which lasted just under three years was finalised on 23rd December with the final handing over of the relevant adjudication records, index maps and survey records of some 4,952 parcels to the Registrar of Lands by the Regional Project Manager. Government is very grateful to Mr. L. J. Howell, M.B.E., Regional Manager and his team for an excellent job as well as to Her Majesty's Government in providing the assistance.

There were a number of officially sponsored visitors during the year. Among these were Sir Bruce Greatbatch, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., M.B.E., Head of the British Development Division in Barbados, from 6th–9th March and in December; Mr. J. F. Williams, Regional Agricultural Engineer and Miss E. Metcalf, Regional Horticultural Adviser of the British Development Division from 11th–15th March; Mr. E. A. Bennett of the West Indian and Atlantic Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 27th–31st March; Mr. S. Wood, Education Adviser, British Development Division from 14th–16th May; Mr. J. C. D. Lawrence, Land Tenure Adviser, Ministry of Overseas Development and Mr. P. Wesley, Regional Survey Officer, British Development Division, 25th May–2nd June; Mr. N. S. Bean, Building Adviser (Architect) Ministry of Overseas Development from 5th–6th July; and Mr. L. A. Hicks, Deputy Overseas Police Adviser, during the month of October, 1974.

The main purpose of most of the visits mentioned above was to hold discussions with Heads of Departments on matters affecting the development of the Territory.

In addition, the territory welcomed the following naval visits:

U.S.S. Saginaw 15th–18th February, 1974;

H.M.C.S. Nipigon 28th February, 1974;

French Minesweeper Croix Du Sud 19th–24th March, 1974;

H.M.S. Nubian 18th–20th May, 1974;

French Minesweeper Baccarat 18th–22nd July, 1974;

H.M.S. Eskimo 9th–12th August, 1974;

H.M.S. Tartar 24th–26th October, 1974;

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Sagebrush 30th October–2nd November, 1974.

Four Canadian naval ships—*Annapolis*, *Assiniborne*, *Nipigon* and *Saguenay*—visited the British Virgin Islands during the month of February for a squadron regatta.

Eleven Royal Navy and three Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ships also visited the island of Virgin Gorda from 12th–15th February for rest and recreation after a series of exercises and training activities (nicknamed Carib Train) in the Caribbean area. On the third day the fleet was visited by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Pollock, G.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C., and the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C. The visit was of historic significance for the British Virgin Islands, being the first by an Admiral of the British navy. Sir Michael visited the fleet mainly to say good-bye prior to retirement on 1st March, 1974, after three years in his post as head of the British navy and 44 years of naval service. The Senior Naval Officer West Indies, Commodore B. Straker, O.B.E., R.N., also accompanied the Fleet.

A small Joint Service exercise, nicknamed SNOW QUEST, under the overall control of S.N.O.W.I., took place between 27th October and 8th November. Soldiers of 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers along with a detachment of Royal Marines from *H.M.S. Tartar*, a Royal Marine element from U.K., army and R.A.F. Communications detachments and strategic transport aircraft of R.A.F. Strike Command, carried out a field training exercise on some of the sparsely populated islands.

Visits abroad included, among others, a trip to Washington by the Hon. the Chief Minister for discussions with officials of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs with a view to securing exemption from the proposed non-immigrant visa requirement for British Virgin Islanders travelling to the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. This became necessary when the U.S. Departments of State and Justice announced plans to introduce measures requiring aliens from British, French, Dutch territories and nationals of independent Caribbean territories seeking to enter the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to be in possession of non-immigrant visas.

POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

The Territory operates under a ministerial system of Government which was introduced in 1967. The Governor is responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, the

Administration of the Courts and Finance, and has reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities. On other matters he is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority in the Legislative Council, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister, and seven elected members returned from one-member electoral districts. The division of seats between the political parties at the 1971 election was—the Democratic Party, three seats; the Virgin Islands Party, two seats; and the B.V.I. United Party, one seat. One Independent candidate was also elected.

In May 1973, the Legislative Council passed a resolution formally requesting the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to appoint a Constitutional Commission to enquire into the need for constitutional change, taking into account the views of the people of the territory and to make recommendations for a revised constitution.

A Commission consisting of Sir Colville Deverell, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., a former Governor of the Windward Islands and Mauritius, Chairman, and Mr. Harvey Lloyd de Costa, C.M.G., Q.C., a former Attorney General of the defunct West Indies Federation, member, was appointed in November 1973. The Commission, assisted by Mr. W. J. Dixon of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Secretary, met and completed its enquiry by early December, 1973 and submitted a report proposing tentative changes to the present constitution.

After some discussion on the Commission's report in the various districts of the territory the Government on 24th July, 1974 passed a resolution in the Legislative Council setting out its position on the proposals put forward by the Commission.

At year end agreement was in sight on a number of proposed changes acceptable to Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the British Virgin Islands.

RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The relationship between the British and United States Virgin Islands continued to be cordial.

On Saturday, 19th January, 1974, several Senators from the United States Virgin Islands held a joint meeting with the British Virgin Islands legislature in Tortola. Among the topics discussed were the energy crisis, immigration problems encountered by British Virgin Islanders in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and education. A resolution proposed by U.S. Senators suggesting a joint meeting between both legislatures at a later date to discuss further solutions to the energy problems of the British Virgin Islands received the full support of members present.

On the question of immigration the U.S. Senators pledged their support, but pointed out they were restricted in this respect as the Federal Government had ultimate control over immigration.

By proclamation, Saturday, 19th October, 1974 was observed as the third Annual British Virgin Islands/United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day. The Governor and Legislative Council of the British Virgin Islands invited the Governor and members of the United States Virgin Islands legislature and their wives, along with other dignitaries, to Tortola to celebrate the occasion. Other civic groups also invited their counterparts.

A reception which included a welcome ceremony was held at the Waterfront/Town Square and speeches were made by both Governors and the Hon. the Chief Minister. His Excellency the Governor of the British Virgin Islands extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. The Chief Minister in his address reminded those present that they were assembled to commemorate the close family ties that bound their two groups of islands which, through an accident of history, found themselves under two different national flags, and because of this they had often to deal with each other on an international level. He continued by saying:

"We were reminded only too recently how decisions taken in a remote national capital could, if implemented, drastically affect the relaxed official pattern of mutual dealings that we have struggled to build up over the years.

Such decisions (referring to a tightening of U.S. visa requirements) could disrupt the smooth flow of people and goods across the few feet of water which divide us, unless our special relationship is taken into account and appropriate allowances made.

Friendship Day has already begun to bear fruit in increased contacts between our schools and administrations and it is hoped that it will lead to a further strengthening of the ties that bind us in a world where strife as well as bickering is on the increase."

His Excellency the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands replied that on Friendship Day substance was being given to frequent expressions of friendship by both British and U.S. Virgin Islands, and that he reciprocated in the fullest way the warm expressions of friendship that had been extended.

Later that day the Governors and legislators of both groups of islands, along with other dignitaries, were entertained at lunch where further speeches extolling the family ties and close bonds of friendship existing between both groups of islands were made.

THE ECONOMY

1974 was a year of consolidation and mild expansion for the domestic economy, and the real rate of growth was inevitably affected by the difficult international economic situation.

Private sector construction investment was again largely concentrated in the tourist sector. The construction of a large hotel/marina on Slaney Reef continued and this development is expected to be completed in 1975. Other construction activity was evident on the north west coast of Tortola where two hotels—Sebastians and Sugar Mill—built additional units; at Baughers Bay where Caribbean Sailing Yachts was building a new headquarters; on Virgin Gorda where a new shopping centre was opened next to the Yacht Harbour and at Biras Creek, Virgin Gorda, and Peter Island, where infrastructure investment continued. Wickhams Cay also saw increased activity with the completion of the yacht maintenance facility on Wickhams Cay II and work on the office block and a marina on Wickhams Cay I. Major remedial engineering works on the Cay are due to start in 1975.

1974 imports cannot be directly compared to 1973 due to a changed method of valuation but there can be little doubt that the 1974 volume of imports maintained the higher 1973 level.

The employment situation at the middle of the year was healthy and a survey conducted in June showed an employed labour force of around 2,770—11 % higher than the equivalent total in June 1973. Unemployment seemed to be minimal but remains unquantifiable. The survey also showed an 8 % increase in average earnings from employment but this had to be balanced against the unprecedented 16 % rise in the cost of living between June 1973 and June 1974. Food prices were worst hit—they went up by an average of 27 %—while house rents remained stable. Inflation certainly moderated in the second half of the year and in particular during the last quarter, but the continued high rates of inflation in the U.S.A. and U.K. bode ill for 1975 prices in the British Virgin Islands.

In 1974 tourist arrivals at 58,486 showed only a modest 1.1% increase over those in 1973, although under the pre-1973 definition of a "visitor arrival" an 8.3% increase was registered (see page 22). Occupancy rates were slightly lower than in 1973 but this reflected a greater number of hotel rooms and charter boats as opposed to fewer visitor-nights. There was a fall of approximately 4% in the number of hotel tourists during the year but this was more than compensated for by the increasing momentum of the charter boat industry which, in attracting 36% more tourists than in 1973, seemed to be oblivious of the general world recession. Total visitor expenditure in the British Virgin Islands was estimated at \$7.67m. in 1973 and is expected to have been substantially higher in 1974.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

The cultural and social life of the Territory reflects an indigenous culture which has been influenced by the African heritage and exposure to western culture.

Steelband and calypso, the music of the West Indies, is strongly ingrained in the life of the people. Western popular music is also greatly appreciated. There are several night clubs, and dances on weekend nights are a favourite pastime. The August Festival, which commemorates the abolition of slavery, is a traditional feature of indigenous artistry each year.

Religion plays a vital part in the life of the people, and there are several different active denominations of the Christian faith.

The indigenous people of the territory are mainly of African extraction. There is a growing number of European and American immigrants and a sprinkling of people from the rest of the world. The pattern of emigration to the United States Virgin Islands and continental U.S.A. that existed in previous years continues to be followed so that in spite of substantial immigration from Europe and the Americas the Territory's population growth remains fairly constant at about 2% annually.

There are several civic and service organisations in the Territory. These include the Boy Scouts, The Red Cross Society, the Lions Club, the Boys and Girls Brigades, the Household of Ruth, the Odd Fellows, the Rotary Club and the Excelsior Club. The Jaycees Club is also in existence, but the local chapter was dormant in the past year.

Sports, especially softball, cricket, football, basketball, netball and athletics, are enjoyed by the British Virgin Islands community; there is also a growing interest in aquatic sports. Horse racing was traditionally mainly a feature of the August Festival, but this is

becoming more and more infrequent. Indoor sports such as chess, table tennis and judo are becoming more popular and organised. Recreation is promoted by the Recreation Trust, a statutory body which was established in 1966. In 1974 for the first time the Trust was able to employ a Sports Officer, who is now in training.

The Community Development Office was set up in 1964, its objective being to build up the social and cultural life of the territory. During 1974 the office continued its services to welfare cases and its financial assistance to approved youth organisations, particularly those concerned with the organisation of sports and community development. It also continued to promote self-help projects through community associations.

The first British Virgin Islands student graduated from the Dominica (Regional) Youth Camp, and another student was able to participate in the Commonwealth Youth Programme course in Guyana.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

At the end of 1974 there were 342 employees on the establishment, 65 of whom were expatriates and 277 local officers. The expatriate staff included 49 persons on contracts and 3 on the permanent establishment. Nine of a total of 19 senior posts were filled by local officers. Valuable assistance has been received from expatriate officers in such fields as Town Planning, Financial Control, Customs and Excise, Accounting and Audit, and Statistics and Public Works; besides Cadastral Survey and Land Registration, for which Government is most grateful.

Based on a review of salaries and other working conditions in the public service by Mr. Harold Waller, O.B.E., the Civil Service received modest increases in salaries retroactive to July 1973 in order to reduce some of the hardships experienced by the rapid increase in the cost of living. The report also recommended a staff inspection exercise to establish the need for the present size, complement and gradings of the Service, but some delay has been encountered in finding a suitable appointee who could undertake the exercise on a regional basis.

Government is pursuing further proposals by the Waller report for a cost of living allowance to be instituted that will help to offset the rapid rise in the cost of living over the 23-month period since the last review.

A training programme is in operation and advantage is being taken of training opportunities available in the Caribbean and the United Kingdom.

Four scholarships for degree courses were awarded in 1974 under the West Indies Scholarship Scheme and the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

Two scholarships for diploma courses were awarded in 1974 under the West Indies Scholarship Scheme in the fields of Public Administration at University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica and Art at the Jamaica School of Art, Kingston, Jamaica.

Eighteen members of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force received training during the year, nine of whom undertook initial training at the Regional Police Training Centre in Barbados, and two successfully completed courses in the United Kingdom—the latter being financed under the U.K. Technical Assistance programme. Courses taken in the Caribbean were financed by the U.K./West Indies Training Scheme.

The British Virgin Islands continued to maintain 12 students at the University of the West Indies and to support it financially.

A total of 11 persons (excluding teachers) returned to the Territory to take up employment or resume duty in the Government service after successfully completing courses of study at institutions in the Caribbean and the U.K.

Administrative secretaries in the various ministries have been redesignated Permanent Secretaries in keeping with the practice in other British Caribbean territories. Other new designations of equal rank include the posts of Deputy Chief Secretary, Deputy Financial Secretary and Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

The Civil Service Association has recently been re-organised and its regular meetings are providing a useful forum for public debates on the problems of the Service. Several useful proposals have been put forward by the Association aimed at securing better working conditions and improving the overall effectiveness of the Service.

HONOURS

On the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday the following awards were made:

To be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Mr. Howard Reynold Penn, Speaker of the Legislative Council.

Colonial Police Medal for meritorious service to Mr. Brian Ernest Graves, former Chief of Police, British Virgin Islands.

OBITUARY

On 8th March, 1974, Mr. Bregado Flax, M.B.E., Chief Customs Officer, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands died suddenly at Peebles Hospital.

He served the British Virgin Islands Government as a primary school teacher from 1935-1952 and then as Customs Officer from November, 1966. In 1971 he received the M.B.E. for long and meritorious service to the Territory.

He is survived by his wife, three sons and one daughter.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE last census in 1970 resulted in a total corrected population figure of 10,030, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over the figure recorded in the 1960 census. Movement to and from the British Virgin Islands has been considerable in recent years and, in large part, the population increase was the result of substantial immigration following the territory's rapid but short-lived economic expansion in the later 1960s. The distribution of the population in 1970 was as follows:

Tortola	8,676
Virgin Gorda	904
Anegada	269
Jost Van Dyke	123
Other Islands	68
	<hr/>
	10,030
	<hr/>

Road Town, the capital, is situated on Tortola and has a population of just under 3,500. The East End/Long Look area of Tortola has a population of just under 2,000. Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin (averaging about 15% of the population) the population is of African extraction.

Chapter 2: Immigration and Emigration

THERE continues to be a Board of Immigration whose duties, among others, are to advise upon all questions concerning the entry of persons into the Virgin Islands, and residence in the Virgin Islands of persons who do not belong to the Virgin Islands. During 1974 the Board recommended 39 applicants for Residential Status and 23 for Belonger Status.

*Statistics***BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS—PORT STATISTICS—1974**

Ports of Entry	Arrivals			Departures		
	Air	Sea	Total	Air	Sea	Total
Beef Island . .	26,704	—	26,704	24,362	—	24,362
West End . .	3,069	47,148	50,217	3,012	45,076	48,088
Virgin Gorda . .	9,450	2,509	11,959	9,344	2,401	11,745
Road Town . .	3,879	11,656	15,535	4,421	11,624	16,045
Jost Van Dyke . .	—	3,126	3,126	—	3,610	3,610
TOTAL . .	43,102	64,439	107,541	41,139	62,711	103,850

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS—PASSENGER STATISTICS—1974

Types of Passengers	Arrivals			Departures		
	Air	Sea	Total	Air	Sea	Total
Residents . .	7,562	28,879	36,441	8,985	31,750	40,735
Migrants . .	406	57	463	307	11	318
Tourists . .	29,194	29,292	58,486	26,257	25,448	51,705
Business Visitors . .	2,391	971	3,362	2,029	741	2,770
Other Visitors . .	601	1,199	1,800	661	856	1,517
Transit workers . .	1,692	1,406	3,098	1,643	1,337	2,980
Other intransits . .	965	753	1,718	948	692	1,640
Visitors making temporary visits abroad . .	291	1,882	2,173	309	1,876	2,185
TOTAL . .	43,102	64,439	107,541	41,139	62,711	103,850

1974 saw an increase of 2·1% over 1973 passenger arrivals which included a switch away from sea arrivals towards air arrivals. The latter, at 43,102, increased by 17·9% over 1973 while sea arrivals dropped by 6·7%.

Deportation

Five persons were deported from the British Virgin Islands during 1974.

Chapter 3: Occupation, Wages and Labour Organisation

THE downward trend in the Labour Force since 1970 came to a halt in 1973, and 1974 showed a reverse in that trend.

The June survey of employees shows some 2,427 persons employed in 180 establishments as against 2,136 in 1973. By making allowances for a number of small firms that were omitted, sub-contractors, self-employed persons and employees of private households, the total Labour Force was estimated at roughly 3,300.

Of the 2,427 employees identified in the survey 694 were employed in the public sector and 1,733 in the private. A breakdown of the Labour Force including Government and industrial sectors is as follows:

Hotels 23·6%	Construction 20%
Government 19·3%	Retailing 8·6%
Transport 7·5%	Banking 5·2% and other concerns 15·8%

The survey also indicated an increase in average earnings since 1973. Average male earnings were \$71·28 for weekly paid and \$490·00 for monthly paid employees. Comparable figures for females were \$44·50 and \$283·00.

1,220 work permits were issued or reissued during the year. Of this number 38 were issued to persons to engage in business as against 73 in 1973.

The following basic requirements governing the issue of work permits continue in effect:

- (1) The unavailability of British Virgin Islanders for the particular job required—permission to recruit labour being given only after the Labour Department is satisfied that a belonger is not available.
- (2) Immigration Status and a bond certifying that funds are available for repatriation purposes if necessary.
- (3) Satisfactory police reports and health certificates.

For renewal of permits, the Labour Department must be satisfied that the circumstances which warranted the issue still exist.

There are no employers' organisations and only one employee organisation. Therefore, the onus of responsibility to act as conciliation between employers and employees still rests with the Labour Commissioner.

Chapter 4: Public Finance and Taxation

PUBLIC FINANCE

General

1974 proved to be an extremely difficult year financially and the Government's recurrent budget came under considerable pressure. World inflation generally, and the rapid rise in fuel prices in particular, completely distorted the original financial projections for the year; these extraneous factors, together with the implementation of a retrospective salaries revision in 1974, caused the Government's recurrent expenditure in 1974 to increase by approximately £1 million as compared to that of 1973. Local revenue rose by \$400,000 over the 1973 level, even though the latter had been inflated by substantial "windfall" receipts. The provisional deficit on recurrent account is \$982,000; the grant-in-aid requirement is calculated to be \$801,000, with the difference being met from the Territory's general revenue balance. Summary figures for the past five years are as follows (in \$'000s):

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Deficit</i>	<i>Grant-in-Aid</i>
1970	3,141	3,449	308	—
1971	3,047	4,024	977	1,113
1972	3,576	4,641	1,065	1,175
1973	4,605	4,968	363	956
1974	5,017	5,999	982	725

Recurrent Revenue

Revenue collections by heads in 1973 and 1974 are set out below:

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>1973</i> \$	<i>1974</i> \$
Customs and Excise	1,284,101	1,437,622
Ports and Harbours	204,204	154,626
Taxes and Licences	1,126,622	1,317,606
Fines and Forfeitures	13,602	22,487
Government Departments and Services	291,478	329,021
Post Office	330,249	226,896
Rent of Government Property	82,871	82,886
Interest	36,260	40,410
Miscellaneous Services	322,693	192,242
Electricity	912,588	1,212,733
TOTAL	4,604,668	5,016,529

The increase in Customs and Excise stemmed largely from higher unit costs of imports and higher freight charges, to which the new

c.i.f.-based Customs Tariff proved more sensitive. The Taxes and Licences head showed increased collections against most individual items, although the increase in income tax collected included certain extraordinary receipts. Both the Post Office and Miscellaneous heads had benefitted exceptionally in 1973 from the initial issue of British Virgin Islands coinage and a special stamp issue to commemorate the event; the 1974 Miscellaneous head reflected reduced sales of the 1974 coin issue. Electricity receipts increased as the result of a tariff revision in late 1973 and the subsequent imposition of a fuel surcharge geared precisely to the increased cost of fuel thereafter; the overall increase did not, however, cover the full increased cost of the electricity supply, which continues to be subsidised by the general taxpayer.

Recurrent Expenditure

Expenditure by heads in 1973 and 1974 is set out below:

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
Governor	50,540	75,380
Administration	247,124	265,011
Audit	17,668	10,853
Finance	499,042	492,396
Judicial	44,307	73,327
Legal	41,320	43,124
Pensions and Gratuities	170,572	247,832
Police and Prisons	273,418	355,265
Public Debt	774,710	778,819
Chief Minister's Office	157,364	178,386
Education	804,403	937,685
Legislature	32,749	37,465
Ministry of Natural Resources and Public Health	45,444	55,353
Agriculture	65,366	78,151
Public Health	479,765	555,631
Survey	66,068	79,287
Ministry of Communications, Works and Industry	106,693	109,563
Public Works	599,458	780,454
Electricity	491,540	845,438
TOTAL	4,967,551	5,999,420

Nearly all heads showed increases in 1974 expenditure as compared to 1973; in general terms this could be attributed to higher costs of goods and higher salaries. Head 5, Judicial, included an extraordinary payment towards the cost of regional judicial services since 1964. Head 7, Pensions and Gratuities, were affected both by the large number of officers retiring or completing their contracts in 1974 and by the salaries revision. Head 18, Public Works, was inflated by large

purchases of Unallocated Stores and under head 19, Electricity, the cost of fuel alone rose by nearly \$300,000.

Capital Expenditure

The Government forged ahead with its capital works programme, spending nearly \$800,000, most of which was provided from Development Aid Grants made available by H.M.G. Apart from the financing of such ongoing projects as Beef Island Terminal Building, West End Police Station, and the construction of Belle Vue Primary School, the funds were used to finance a number of new projects, including the *concreting of the Cane Garden Bay/Joes Hill Road*, the *construction of the Plaza Offices, Anegada Clinic, an additional room on the Robinson O'Neal School, Anegada Electricity Scheme and improvements to the Deep Water Harbour, Port Purcell.*

TAXATION

Taxes on income are chargeable at the rate of 3% on total income (employment tax), and an additional 12% (income tax) after deduction of generous allowances. As regards income from abroad, double taxation relief treaties have been in effect for some time between the territory and Canada, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. A similar treaty with the U.K. lapsed in 1972 and its renewal is under consideration. Arrangements exist for the grant of double taxation relief in respect of income arising in other Commonwealth countries which offer reciprocal relief. Other revenue is collected in the form of Land and House Taxes, Hotel Accommodation Taxes and Stamp Duties under the Land and House Tax Ordinance as amended, the Hotel Accommodation (Taxation) Ordinance and the Stamp Act respectively; revenue is derived also from trade, liquor, boat and animal licences.

Chapter 5: Currency and Banking

THE British Virgin Islands are unique in being the only British Territory to use the United States dollar as legal tender. The currency of the United States had been the *de facto* currency in general circulation before it became legal tender in 1959. The Territory itself has no exchange control restrictions and dollars may be freely transferred in and out. In 1973 the Territory issued its own coinage with full legal tender status; the value and denominations were the

same as the United States coins. Although some of the British Virgin Islands coins were put into circulation, the issue was primarily aimed at the numismatist and considerable sales were effected of packaged specimen and mint sets. A further issue was made in 1974.

The Banking Ordinance 1972 regulates the activities of banking and other financial institutions with the Territory and, in the case of British Virgin Islands banking corporations, outside the Territory as well. There were six financial institutions, including five commercial banks, operating in the Territory in 1974; The Virgin Islands National Bank (established May, 1961); Barclays Bank International (established 1965); The Bank of Nova Scotia (established 1969); The Chase Manhattan Bank (established 1968); The Commercial Bank of Tortola Ltd. (established 1972); and The Provident Trust Company (Tortola) Ltd. (established 1969).

Chapter 6: Commerce

DIRECT shipping services from the U.K. and the U.S. continued. Imports from the U.K. and other Commonwealth countries were moderate. The bulk of the trade including importations of building materials and foodstuffs took place between the United States, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands.

Imports in 1973 reflected the economic recovery in the second half of the year and finished 24% higher than in 1972. Of this increase, some 12% was attributable to higher unit values leaving a real physical increase in volume of 11%.

Complete import figures for 1974 are unavailable at the time of writing and besides these cannot be directly compared to 1973 due to a change in method of valuation. However, the trend established so far shows that the 1974 volume of imports maintained the higher 1973 level.

Chapter 7: Production

Industrial and General

OVER the past year continuing interest was shown in the field of light industries and several new trade licences were issued as well as renewals for most of the existing ones covering mostly haberdashery,

places of entertainment or amusement centres, and other small businesses in the clothing and food industries.

The hotel industry has continued to expand at an acceptable rate. During the year thirteen licences were issued under the Hotels Aid Ordinance, of which two were in respect of new hotels, and eleven in respect of extensions to hotels already receiving aid.

Investors continue to avail themselves of the concessions offered under the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance and the Encouragement of Industries Ordinance. For the year under review, one furniture factory was established and construction commenced on two marinas.

Tourism

Tourism remains and for the foreseeable future will continue to be the dominant industry in the Territory. The statistics continue to show steady growth, despite a seeming downturn in tourism in other areas of the Caribbean. The following corrected figures show this continued growth.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
17,500	22,800	29,500	33,200	37,200	43,300	49,200*	53,300*

(*1973—57,800; 1974—58,500. These figures include all tourist arrivals. The former series excluded those who arrived in their own or in foreign chartered vessels and included business and other visitors.)

Visitors to the Territory are predominantly of American nationality and account for 66% of the total. Of the remainder, 2% are Canadians, 3% from the U.K. and Europe, 5% from the Eastern Caribbean, 7% from Puerto Rico and 16% from the U.S. Virgin Islands; South America and other nations account for the other 1%.

An examination of the occupancy figures show that the short winter season is good, with percentages in excess of 70% for the properties of 20 rooms and over and the charter boats. For the smaller properties the occupancy rate is in the 60% range. During the off season the larger properties dropped to 33% and the smaller to 29%. While hotel figures showed a slight fall from 1973, this was due to an increase in room capacity as opposed to a lower level of bed nights.

Several promotional activities were carried out during the year. The Chief Minister, accompanied by the Board's Executive Secretary visited Norway, Sweden, and Denmark where very promising results were obtained.

Once again the Territory received excellent exposure at the Henry

Davis Travel Trade Show in New York and surrounding areas. As a result of public relations programmes in Canada in conjunction with the Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association, the Territory received in excess of 2,000 column inches of newspaper coverage. In England, the West India Committee continued to represent the Territory and to disseminate information. A tour of travel agents from Scotland was arranged, and a number of travel writers and travel editors visited the Territory, resulting in good editorial publicity.

While no additional hotels were built during the year, there was expansion at both Sebastians on the Beach and at the Sugar Mill Estate. Refurbishing was done at Drake's Anchorage and at Bitter End, Virgin Gorda, new docking facilities have been added. Construction of Prospect Reef continued during the year with a view to opening in 1975. When completed, this will add another 322 beds to those available in the Territory. The bareboat fleet continues to expand and improve its services.

The Tourist Board continued to support the Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association with representation in London, Toronto and New York. However, the Board felt that the Association was not serving in the best interest of the Territory and recommended to Government that support should be withdrawn at the end of the year. The Government endorsed that recommendation and representation by independent public relations companies would be introduced in North America on 1st January, 1975. In the United Kingdom, the West India Committee would continue to represent the Territory. The Board continued to maintain membership in the Caribbean Hotel Association and obtained membership in A.S.T.A. The WELCOME continues to be the main promotional tool of the Board and is receiving wide acclaim both at home and abroad.

Agriculture and Fisheries

The Department of Agriculture was managed by a young agriculturalist who in early 1973 returned from a year's attachment with the Ministry of National Development and Agriculture in Guyana following the completion of a B.Sc. Course in agriculture at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. He was assisted by one Agricultural Officer, four Agricultural Assistants and one Executive Officer. The post of Livestock Officer remained vacant throughout 1974.

General Activities of the Department

The activities of the Department throughout 1974 were channelled along the following lines:

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- (i) the providing of technical agricultural advice to farmers;
- (ii) the production of vegetable seedlings, fruit trees and ornamentals for sale;
- (iii) the production of breeding stock (Red Poll cattle, Barbados Black Belly and Tortola White sheep) for sale to farmers;
- (iv) the prevention and control of pests and diseases of livestock and crops;
- (v) the protection of forested areas and the conservation of soil and water;
- (vi) the encouragement and promotion of fishing and farming;
- (vii) the control of importation and exportation of pets, plants and commercial livestock;
- (viii) the improvement and extension of pastures;
- (ix) the implementation of the Territory's Agricultural Development Plan.

Agricultural Nurseries

The Department maintained two small nurseries at Road Town and Paraquita Bay where vegetable seedlings, budded and grafted oranges, grapefruits, limes, avocados, mangoes and other planting material were produced for sale to farmers and home gardeners.

Crop Production in General

Bananas were grown in appreciable quantities in the Carrot Bay/Cane Garden Bay area. Because of poor marketing conditions much of this fruit did not reach local consumers; in addition, farmers preferred to market their produce in the United States Virgin Islands, where higher prices are obtainable.

Sugar cane was produced on small holdings for the manufacture of rum.

Orange, grapefruit and lime production was confined mostly to back yard gardens and there were no citrus orchards of any appreciable size.

There was considerable demand for both green and dried coconuts but the area under coconut stands remained constant. Dwarf varieties imported from Dominica were sold from government nurseries.

Mangoes took the lead in fruit production and there was great local demand for this type of fruit, particularly julie mangoes.

Food crops and root crops such as tannias, yams, cassavas and sweet potatoes continued to be the main item of peasant farm output,

the production of green leafy vegetables being hindered by the low and sporadic rainfall.

Short-term vegetables such as cabbages, sweet peppers, kohlrabi, tomatoes and eggplant were produced mainly in back yard gardens.

Crop Pests

The main crop pests were various types of caterpillars, scales and mealy bugs.

Livestock Production

Livestock Production—Government Stock Farm

The Department maintained a 70-acre Livestock Farm at Paraguita Bay, Tortola for the purpose of producing breeding stock (Red Poll and Senepol cattle, Barbados Black Belly and Tortola White sheep) to farmers. The pastures are mainly *pangola* pastures but guinea grass and elephant grass were also produced.

Beef Production General

During 1974 many farmers who had given up livestock raising returned to the farm. This was partly due to Government's increased support to agricultural development, partly because of very favourable market conditions and partly because of an increased awareness among British Virgin Islanders of the need to produce local foods.

The main types of cattle reared continued to be Red Poll/Brahman crosses combining the beef production capabilities of the Red Poll with the ability of the Brahman to withstand harsh tropical conditions.

Because of the large demand for fresh beef the cattle population has not increased significantly over the 1973 population level which was estimated at 2,000 head. The value of imported fresh beef for January to June 1974 was \$127,392 compared with \$86,617 for the same period in 1973. The total live weight of animals butchered in Tortola in 1974 as measured by animals passing through the Road Town scale was 252,427 lbs. Cattle were sold at a price of 50–60 cents per lb. throughout 1974.

Sheep and Goats

As was the case in beef production many non-farmers moved into small stock production because of the large demand for fresh mutton and because of the quicker returns offered by this enterprise. The preferred sheep breeds were the Tortola White and the Barbados Black Belly. Sheep and goats were sold at a rate of 60–65 cents per lb. live weight throughout 1974.

Poultry

Seven relatively large poultry farms (1,500–3,500 birds) were in operation, mainly engaged in the production of eggs. Many smaller back yard farms of 50–100 birds were in operation as the demand for local fresh eggs increased. For the first six months of 1974 the value of imported eggs amounted to \$20,891. High costs of imported feed and other technical managerial problems involved in the production of broilers prevented local poultry farmers from competing with those in the United States and Puerto Rico. No broiler production farms have therefore yet emerged in spite of the very high demand for poultry meat. The value of imported poultry for the first 6 months of 1974 amounted to \$130,342.

Pigs

Pig production appeared to have declined and was confined to back yard pens or stakes with three–five pigs per holding. Pigs reared included Berkshire, Duroc and Large Black types.

Animal Health and Diseases

(a) Ticks and tick borne diseases

Most farms throughout Tortola became infested with cattle ticks. Spraying with ixodocides (Bercotox and Gamatox) gave limited control. The Government stock farm remained tick free throughout 1974. A significant number of cattle sold from the farm, however, succumbed to various tick borne diseases. Imported livestock also succumbed. Although, because of lack of veterinary facilities and personnel in the British Virgin Islands the diseases could not be diagnosed with certainty, from symptom descriptions communicated to the U.S. veterinary division in the United States Virgin Islands anaplasmosis or piroplasmosis was suspected. The diseases were fatal in most cases. The need to rehabilitate dipping vats and to re-introduce compulsory dipping became apparent.

(b) Intestinal parasites

Sheep and goats became heavily infested with intestinal parasites during 1974 and many sheep died as a result. This problem was brought under control late in 1974 when regular treatment of flocks using a piperazine compound was carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Rabies

The British Virgin Islands remained a rabies free area throughout 1974.

(d) *Screw-worms*

No cases of Screw-worm infestations were observed during 1974. The British Virgin Islands was declared Screw-worm free in 1973 after a joint campaign to eradicate the Screw-worm from the Virgin Islands was carried out successfully by the United States and British Virgin Islands Departments of Agriculture.

(e) *Mastitis*

Twenty cases of mastitis in swine and cattle were treated in 1974.

(f) *Tetanus*

Eighteen cases of tetanus in pigs, horses and donkeys were successfully treated.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Projects

During 1974 the Government of the British Virgin Islands made determined efforts to promote agricultural development. A policy paper on Agriculture prepared in 1973 in consultation with advisors of the British Development Division in the Caribbean resulted in the emergence of a two-year agricultural plan embracing the following for 1974/75:

- (a) the purchase of a tractor and other agricultural machinery;
- (b) the purchase of livestock for improving the government's herd and to upgrade local farm livestock generally;
- (c) the rehabilitation of pastures on the government stock farm at Paraquita Bay;
- (d) the construction of simple earthen dams in the dry hilly cattle areas of the territory for livestock watering;
- (e) the construction of two shallow wells at Paraquita Bay for irrigated vegetable production on a five acre plot;
- (f) the construction of buildings for livestock, produce and equipment;
- (g) the purchase of irrigation equipment and weighing scales; and
- (h) an extension of electricity to new buildings, wells and irrigation area.

Agricultural Exhibitions 1974

In November 1974 agricultural shows were held on Virgin Gorda and Tortola in an effort to give further impetus to Government's drive to revitalise agriculture. Shows had not been held since 1970.

Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation

The Department of Agriculture worked closely with the National Parks Trust in the production and distribution of seedlings of mahogany, and red and white cedar for the replanting of denuded lands. Hundreds of mahogany seedlings were planted at the Mount Sage National Park which serves as a tourist attraction.

The planting of fruit trees such as mango, avocados, citrus and coconuts on denuded areas, ghuts and along water courses continued to be encouraged.

A number of sites along the mountain ridge in Tortola were selected for the construction of earthen dams and the collection of water for livestock and vegetable production.

The construction of narrow bench terraces continued on the steep hillsides.

Fisheries

Because of very favourable markets for fish in the British Virgin Islands as well as in the U.S. Virgin Islands the amount of fish harvested continued to increase. Many of the "live well" or tank boats of past times gave way to freezer equipped diesel driven boats. This was particularly so in the case of full-time fishermen. Scores of fast outboard motor boats were operated by part-time fishermen. Fishing was done mainly for reef fishes using stationary fish traps or fish pots along the coastal coral reefs. Only one fishing group explored deep-sea fishing grounds for red snapper and grouper demanded heavily by the tourist sector. The marketing of fish continued to be disorganised with fish being sold directly from fishermen to consumers.

Sport-fishing continued to attract an increasing number of anglers whose main catch included dolphin, tuna, wahoo and marlin.

Export statistics were not available at the time of the preparation of this report.

It is thought that considerable scope exists for the expansion of this industry and in 1974 requests were made to the British Development Division in the Caribbean for advice on the development of fisheries in the British Virgin Islands.

Meteorological Data

Meteorological data was recorded by the Data Collection Unit, Public Works Department. The maximum recorded temperature was 90°F on 26th August, while the minimum recorded temperature was 61°F on 24th February. The day with the most hours of sunshine was 21st May, with 11.5 hours while the days with the least hours

of sunshine were 23rd and 24th October. Most rain fell between August and November with 13.55 inches recorded in October. Comparative figures for the past ten years for Road Town, Tortola are shown below:

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Jan.	1.68	4.34	1.36	1.98	3.61	1.98	4.96	2.10	1.23	4.88
Feb.	0.49	1.91	2.63	2.75	7.77	—	3.18	3.60	1.95	0.48
March	0.66	1.99	0.45	2.56	0.82	2.49	1.73	3.51	1.77	0.75
April	4.08	7.54	0.30	2.28	0.62	4.90	4.14	3.30	1.45	2.55
May	11.61	1.28	4.03	3.02	16.28	4.90	6.28	1.78	0.68	1.64
June	2.98	2.58	3.44	5.00	4.12	2.40	2.81	1.14	2.15	1.60
July	4.11	5.63	2.33	3.48	3.13	4.13	1.91	1.95	3.87	1.82
Aug.	4.77	4.03	2.43	2.12	7.46	2.55	5.33	2.50*	5.77	7.17
Sept.	4.43	6.59	2.60	5.87	3.53	4.45	3.25	4.27	4.68	6.52
Oct.	5.53	5.64	6.26	8.17	5.66	20.10	8.04	5.88	3.11	13.22
Nov.	3.99	5.38	7.29	7.95	11.57	9.09	5.45	1.19	2.22	9.41
Dec.	4.05	3.85	1.70	6.64	2.54	8.63	5.01	4.07	2.10	5.38
TOTAL	48.38	51.09	34.82	51.82	67.11	62.02	52.09	38.56	30.88	55.42

*Estimated

Surveys

For the purpose of Section 3 of the Land Surveyors' Ordinance 1970, No. 3 of 1970, Mr. C. Wraith of the Regional Cadastral Survey was appointed to act as Chief Surveyor pending the appointment in February of the Senior Surveyor, Mr. K. Pothan, who was appointed on a contract basis for a period of 2 years.

During the year the department co-operated closely with the Regional Cadastral Survey and Registration project which, by year end, had been completed, bringing all surveys and land transfers under the provisions of the Registered Land Ordinance 1970. Progress has also been made towards the drafting of effective survey regulations to be enforced under the Ordinance; an efficient land subdivision and transfer system has evolved in co-operation with the Land Registry and the Town Planner's Office; and a start has been made on the revision and extension of control surveys.

The Land Surveyors' Board, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Surveyor, has prepared an examination syllabus for the licensing of land surveyors and it is hoped that the first examinees will be licensed during the coming year.

Land Registration Project

The British Virgin Islands, with U.K. Technical Assistance, has been undertaking a Cadastral Survey and Registration Project aimed

at creating clear land titles and a register of titles for all lands in the British Virgin Islands.

The Land Registration Project was completed by December with a total of some 4,952 parcels of land having been adjudicated and handed over to the Registrar of Lands.

Fifteen sections were completed and handed over including Beef Island Group, followed by East End, Long Look, Southern Cays, Road Town, East Central, West End, West Central, Sea Cow's Bay, Mount Sage, Virgin Gorda South, Virgin Gorda East, Virgin Gorda Central, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

In 1972 over seven dealings were processed in the Land Registry as compared with six hundred and eighty deeds registered.

In 1973 the system, which was still very new, saw a total of 265 dealings in the Land Registry and a drop in the registration of deeds by ninety, i.e. a registration of five hundred and eighty.

1974 saw the Land Registry really being put to use as there was a total of eight hundred and forty-seven transactions processed with only two hundred and seventy-three deeds being filed for the same period.

There was also a substantial increase in fees collected. Below is a breakdown of fees collected for the years 1972 to 1974, and the number of blocks and parcels by registration section.

1972	1973	1974
\$67.00	\$1,458.50	\$3,339.00

Breakdown of Registration Sections, Blocks and Parcels at completion of registration in December 1974:

	<i>Number of Blocks</i>	<i>Number of Parcels</i>
Beef Island Group	10	27
East End	6	347
Long Look	13	727
Southern Cays	12	37
Road Town	16	1,088
East Central	8	357
West End	10	245
West Central	15	600
Sea Cow's Bay	9	398
Mount Sage	13	412
Virgin Gorda South	9	331
Virgin Gorda East	9	35
Virgin Gorda Central	10	106
Anegada	9	47
Jost Van Dyke	8	195
TOTAL	157	4,952

Land Utilisation and Tenure

The total issue of Aliens Land Holding Licences remained as stabilised as the previous year, with a marginal increase in the overall development commitment.

The Aliens Land Holding Regulations Act (Cap. 89) continues to be the operative law under which licences are issued to enable non-belongers to hold land in the Territory. During the year 1974, 72 Aliens Land Holding Licences were issued with a total development commitment of just over \$1½ million. A breakdown of the licences issued for the period under review is as follows:

Year 1974

To hold as owners or lessees more than 3 acres	11
To hold as owners, lessees, chargee or mortgagees less than 3 acres	57
To hold an aggregate of 3,100 shares in land-holding companies	4

Wickhams Cay Development

Progress during the year on Wickhams Cay Development was limited, in the main, to the background preparatory works necessary to deal with the first stage of the surface water remedial works, a certain amount of dredging in the marina and also the first stage of the foul drainage scheme not only to serve Wickhams Cay but also parts of Road Town. By the end of the year a programme had been set for tenders to be received for the various works during the early part of 1975 and for work to commence soon after.

In addition the project management consultants Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley achieved some success in agreeing terms for the disposal of a number of sites including a site from which the airboat service Antilles Airboats commenced operations during August 1974 to provide a further link between Road Town and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Another sale of some significance was that achieved when Village Cay Marina purchased a site on which to erect a building to incorporate various marina facilities together with rights to construct jetties for mooring purposes in the marina itself. The first stage of construction commenced in September 1974 and it is expected that the first phase of the facilities will be operational by September 1975. The transaction included rights and options on further stages of marina facilities in addition to sites for residential development spread over the next eight years.

The terms for the employment of Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley under Technical Assistance were eventually extended until

December 1974 and at that time the project management of Wickhams Cay became the responsibility of Mr. C. A. Sears, a direct appointment, again under Technical Assistance.

Town and Country Planning

The Town and Country Planning Department continued to be administered within the portfolio of the Chief Minister. Since 1969 the Department has been supervised by a United Nations Adviser on Physical Planning.

During 1974 the Road Town Master Plan was adopted as a guide for use by the Land Development Control Authority when land use proposals are put up to that body for consideration.

In addition a first draft for a Master Plan for East End/Long Look has been completed, as well as several action area reports and plans.

With an increasing number of development proposals under way on Wickhams Cay the Town and Country Planning Department continued to tie development on the Cay into the physical planning pattern of the Territory as a whole.

The Land Development Control Authority continued to hold regular meetings throughout the year. Twenty-eight applications for development were considered of which nineteen were approved in principle and nine were deferred, pending additional information.

Mining

As a result of an increased number of applications for exploration licences in territorial waters, it became necessary to secure technical expert advice from a competent source on the matter. Recommendations have now been embodied in a report entitled "A Petroleum Code for the B.V.I.", prepared by Petroleum Studies Limited.

The Petroleum Mining Ordinance, 1972, No. 12 of 1972, remained the operative law under which exploration licences are issued. The first draft of regulations under this Ordinance was completed towards the end of the year.

Two new applications were received from companies wishing to explore for ferrous metals under the Mining Ordinance 1972, No. 11 of 1972. No licences were issued.

Chapter 8: Social Services

EDUCATION

EDUCATION remained under the portfolio of the Chief Minister, the Hon. Willard Wheatley, M.B.E.

Staffing

Miss Enid Scatliffe, M.B.E. was appointed Chief Education Officer with effect from 1st April, 1974 in place of Mr. George Clough whose contract had expired; Mr. A Christopher, M.A. was seconded from the post of Assistant Principal, B.V.I. High School to act as Education Officer (Admin.) whilst Miss I. Turnbull continued as Education Officer (Training).

Advisory Bodies

(a) The Board of Education

The Minister is advised by a Board of Education, of which he is Chairman. The Board met twice during the year.

(b) The B.V.I. High School Committee

The Chief Education Officer is Chairman of this Committee. Membership includes four parents from different areas in the Territory, who are able to speak on behalf of the Community and to advise the Principal on matters affecting the work and welfare of the school. Meetings were held three times during the year.

(c) The Primary Schools Commission

The Commission met six times during the year under the chairmanship of the Chief Education Officer. This Committee deals mainly with staff management and discipline of teachers in the 14 Primary Schools, 11 of which are now Government Schools.

Cost of Education

There was an increase of about 20% in the provision for education within the recurrent budget for 1974, due largely to revision of salaries; expenditure for 1973 amounted to \$777,650 and the expenditure provided for in 1974 was \$938,685 representing some 17% of the territory's budget. The recurrent cost per pupil at the High School was \$477; the cost per pupil in the Primary Schools was \$224 per annum.

A total of some \$31,583.00 of Development Aid funds was spent on:

- (i) An extension to the Robinson O'Neal Memorial School;
- (ii) Completing construction of the Belle Vue School.

Caribbean Examinations Council

The Council met twice during the year; in January in Guyana immediately following an Education Ministers' meeting attended by the Chief Minister and in Barbados in November. On each occasion the Territory was represented by the Chief Education Officer and Principal of the B.V.I. High School along with the Permanent Secretary, Chief Minister's Office for the latter meeting. The Committee has agreed to take over by 1977 current Cambridge examinations in West Indian History with Mathematics, Geography, English, Technical and Vocational subjects to follow.

The British Virgin Islands National Committee chaired by the Chief Education Officer held two meetings. The Chief Education Officer also attended a meeting of Chairmen of National Committees at the Caribbean Community Secretariat, Guyana, in January.

Education Week

Education Week, the main purpose of which was to promote a better understanding between the schools and the community, was observed in March. Highlights included the opening by the Chief Minister, a tea party with the former Chief Education Officer as guest of honour, open days and a teacher-exchange programme.

Friendship Day

U.S. Virgin Islands/British Virgin Islands Friendship Day celebrations were held in the British Virgin Islands on 19th October. The staff of the Education Department and members of the teaching fraternity hosted their counterparts at Peter Island Yacht Club.

Health in Schools

School children continued to receive excellent dental and medical care from the Public Health staff of the Medical Department who also made regular visits to the schools. A two-day health education seminar under the auspices of the World Health Organisation/Pan-American Health Organisation was also held with U.S. Virgin Islands health educators along with local medical personnel participating. Visual Aid Care Project, run by Waterloo University, and largely funded by Canadian Aid, by other aid sources and by Rotary Clubs in Canada, and by a local government grant, repeated a system of examinations in the period 4th May–1st June. Just under 1,000 children were screened, 120 of whom failed and were further examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 73 children; 20 were referred for further medical treatment. A new team arrived in November to fit the spectacles. Thanks are due to the School of Optometry, Waterloo, Canada for its kind assistance.

Education Legislation

Government is giving active consideration to a draft Education Bill which seeks to provide for a unified teaching service under an independent service commission to be responsible for the appointment, control and discipline of all teachers in secondary and primary schools in the territory.

Survey of Secondary Education

Government has agreed to the terms of reference of a mixed team of local and outside educationists to mount a survey of secondary education in the British Virgin Islands as a follow-up to the Lavender Report 1969.

Primary and Post Primary Schools

School Attendance and Enrolment—Primary and Post Primary

There was little absenteeism. Enrolment for 1974 was 1,883, comprising 945 boys and 938 girls.

Post Primary Classes

Post primary classes are held at three schools on out islands for pupils aged 12–15 years who are unable to attend the B.V.I. High School. Forty-three of these pupils sat the local school leaving examination in July.

Staffing

57% of primary school teachers are trained. At the end of the year there were 83 teachers in the primary schools.

Teacher Training

Throughout the year attempts have been made to help teachers to improve themselves both academically and professionally. The main objective from the professional standpoint was to enable them to improve the quality of their class teaching, particularly the teaching of reading. Besides regular bi-monthly classes during the early part of the year, Easter workshops were conducted at three centres in Language Arts, Mathematics and General Principles of Teaching followed by an annual summer vacation course for untrained teachers and new recruits. In March the Education Officer and a group of teachers attended a Reading Workshop of the St. Thomas Reading Council at the College of the Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Four teachers successfully completed the University of the West Indies In-Service Course. Thirteen teachers are away on training

courses at colleges in the Caribbean and two in the U.K. on courses under the Commonwealth Education Fellowship Scheme. During the year four teachers completed one-year Commonwealth Education Fellowships in the U.K. along with two others on short attachments; two completed degree courses at the University of the West Indies and seven one- to two-year courses at teachers' colleges in the Caribbean.

U.N.E.S.C.O./University of the West Indies Project

The U.N.E.S.C.O./University of the West Indies Language Arts project is being carried out with much success in three primary schools along with the B.V.I. High School. Machinery obtained from U.N.E.S.C.O. to be used with the project is to be put into use shortly.

Private Schools

There are now eight private schools with a total enrolment of 298. Most of these take pupils right through the primary stage while others cater for pupils of nursery or kindergarten level. Two of these—Scotts Educational Institute and the Seventh Day Adventist School—cater in addition for pupils of secondary school age.

Fort Charlotte Children's Centre

The Fort Charlotte School for handicapped children was declared a community school in December, thus qualifying for certain government grants. Government undertook to pay the salaries of the two teachers who are not volunteers. The centre was established in 1972 by the local branch of the British Red Cross aimed primarily at providing special education for the physically and mentally handicapped. During the intervening period the roll has risen from 6 to 14.

Secondary Education

The B.V.I. High School Staff

Of the staff of 46 (19 men, 27 women) there are 19 graduates, 7 of whom are trained teachers, and of 27 assistants 23 are trained, making a total of 30 trained staff (65%).

The Administration includes three Assistant Principals, each of whom is also a Head of Department and subject teacher with about 60% teaching periods. There is need for a Deputy Principal whose full time could be given to assisting the Principal and taking care particularly of personnel matters, but it has not yet been possible to make a suitable appointment.

Regional Seminars

One staff member attended a Seminar for teachers/librarians in Antigua and another a seminar in Guidance Counselling in Barbados in August.

Number of Pupils

The total number of new entrants was 157. At the end of the year there were 366 boys and 430 girls on the roll.

High School Diplomas

Sixty-five school leavers were awarded High School Diplomas at the Graduation Ceremony of the High School at the time of the Annual Speech Day.

There were three grades of certificates awarded, viz:

- (i) Grade One: Passes in Mathematics and English with distinction, and a minimum of three other subjects.
- (ii) Grade Two: A pass in English with distinction and passes in four other subjects.
- (iii) Grade Three: Passes in any four subjects. Forty-seven students entered for the Cambridge "O" level examinations with the following results:
 - 1 student gained 6 passes;
 - 1 student gained 5 passes;
 - 3 students gained 4 passes;
 - the remainder gained 1-3 passes.

Higher and Further Education

Evening classes were held throughout the year, mainly in English, Mathematics, Shorthand and Typing. The classes were mainly geared to the taking of G.C.E. "O" level, or L.C.C. examinations or to R.S.A. examinations. The tutors were members of the B.V.I. High School Staff. The enrolment of students was as follows:

	Eng. GCE	Eng. LCC	Maths GCE	Maths LCC	Typing	Shorthand	B/keep- ing RSA	Span- ish GCE	His- tory GCE	Elect- ronics/ Elect- ricity
Jan.	6	9	6	10	46	24	6	-	-	-
Apr.	-	7	-	10	45	21	8	-	-	-
Sept.	6	6	5	6	33	19	6	-	-	5

Scholarship Programme

University of the West Indies

At the end of the year there were 12 British Virgin Islands students at the University of the West Indies—5 at Mona, Jamaica; 6 at Cave Hill, Barbados and 1 at St. Augustine, Trinidad. A total of \$42,904 was paid in contributions to the University.

College of the Virgin Islands

Three students were enrolled at the College of the Virgin Islands in Business Administration, Secretarial Service and Electrical Engineering with the assistance of the local Scholarship Trust Loan Scheme and the Percy Chubb Loan Fund.

Industrial Arts Courses

Two students were at the Moyne, St. Lucia pursuing courses in physical planning under the United Nations Development Programme; four were at the Golden Grove Technical College, Antigua, two pursuing studies in air conditioning and two in auto mechanics; one was at the Samuel Jackson Prescod Polytechnic, Barbados undertaking training in carpentry; and one was at the Jamaica School of Art, Kingston, Jamaica.

Library Services

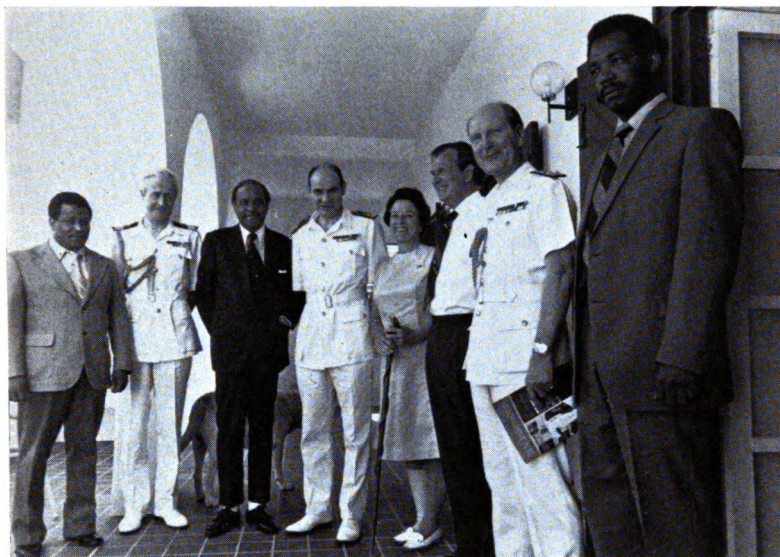
The Library continued to provide a useful service to the reading community, including school children and adults, at the public library in Road Town and in out-districts by maintaining some 14 service points on its Book Mobile Library run. In addition, library collections were deposited in some eight primary schools and a free postal lending service was maintained for readers in out-islands.

Public Library Service Ordinance

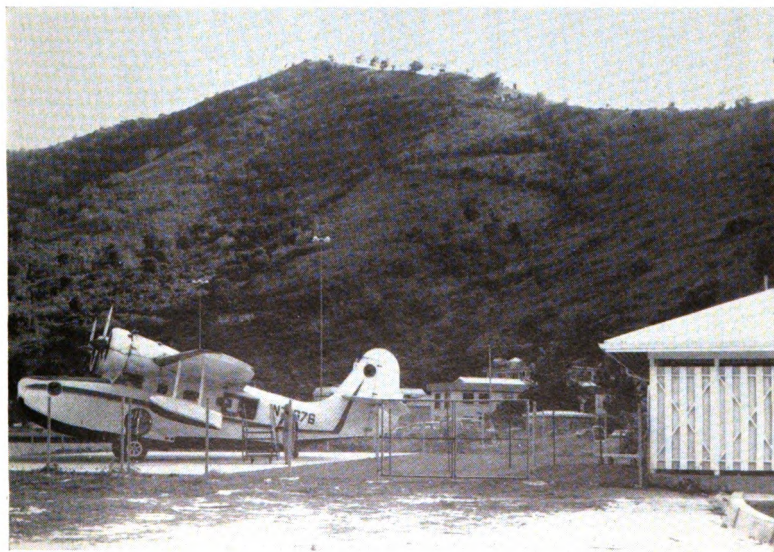
This Ordinance came into effect in May. It seeks to ensure that there is within the Virgin Islands a statutory obligation to provide the entire territory with an efficient library service. Regulations under this Ordinance have also been prepared.

Special Services

The Book Mobile Library continued to be the source of general reading materials to children and adults throughout rural villages and communities on Tortola; the Children's Library Programme held during the summer vacation featured story-telling, drama, art



The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Pollock, G.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C. (second from right), during courtesy call on His Excellency the Governor at Government House, B.V.I. Others from left to right: Hon. C. Maduro, Minister, Natural Resources and Public Health; Commodore C. Rushby, S.N.O.W.I.; Hon. W. Wheatley, Chief Minister; Commander-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C.; His Excellency The Governor, Mr. D. G. Cudmore, C.B.E., and Mrs. Cudmore; Hon. O. Cills, Minister, Communications, Works and Industry.



Antilles Airboat at new Ramp, Wickhams Cay, Road Town, Tortola. Terminal Building in right foreground.



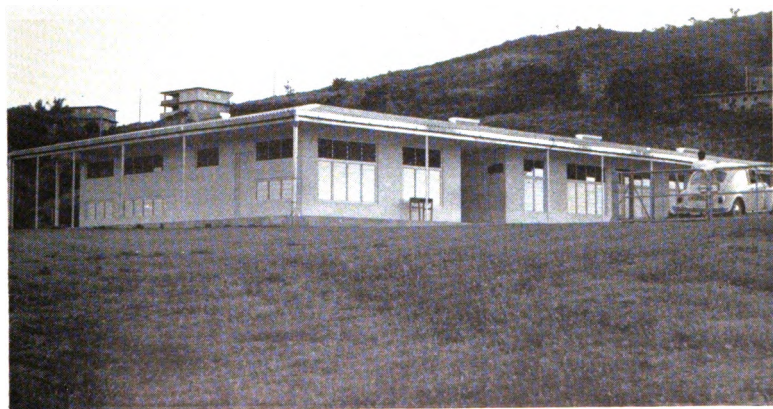
Electronics class at work at B.V.I. High School, Road Town, Tortola.



New Police Station at West End, Tortola, B.V.I.



New Plaza Office building, Road Town. Work under way on the Town Square adjacent.



New Government Primary School at Belle Vue, Tortola.



U.S.V.I.-B.V.I. Friendship Day celebration at Road Town, Tortola, B.V.I., with His Excellency Mr. Melvin H. Evans, Governor of the U.S.V.I., accompanied by His Excellency Mr. W. W. Wallace, C.B.E., D.S.C., Governor B.V.I. about to inspect the Guard of Honour, at Waterfront Town Square.



1974 Spring Regatta, Road Harbour, Tortola.

and music appreciation. A remedial reading class in conjunction with the Education Department was also featured. Achievement certificates were awarded to individual participants.

Activities in Rural Areas

The Librarian assisted with the re-organisation of the Virgin Gorda branch library and offered useful suggestions regarding its management; a committee was set up on Anegada to engage in fund-raising in order to purchase vital equipment for a branch library there; and a postal service was maintained specifically for persons living on out-islands.

Regional Activity

The librarian attended the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Information Libraries Conference in October held in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the theme of which was centralisation of library materials.

The library continued its contribution to the Current Caribbean Bibliography being prepared in co-operation with Caribbean Regional Library, Puerto Rico, as well as its inter-library loan programme with the public library in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Statistics

Registered Borrowers 1974

	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>Total</i>
Headquarters	1,884	1,816	3,700
Book Mobile	100	809	909
Grand Total	1,984	2,625	4,609

Circulation

Headquarters	7,915	8,948	16,863
Book Mobile	222	3,730	3,952
Periodical (Circulation)	789	168	957
Grand Total	8,926	12,846	21,772

Periodicals

	<i>1974</i>	<i>1973</i>
No. of periodicals (subscriptions)	41	32
No. of periodicals (gifts)	25	27
Total number of periodicals received	66	59

Newspapers

No. of newspapers (subscriptions)	6	5
No. of newspapers (gifts)	9	9
Total number	15	14

Book Stock

No. of new books added	1,165	1,132
Gifts	184	900
No. of books discarded, 31st December	275	100
No. on 31st December	21,168	20,094

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

General

The year 1974 was characterised by continued progress in the development of the Health Services in the Territory, implementation of Government policy and the completion of various projects.

The new clinic at Cappaon's Bay was completed early in the year and is now functioning satisfactorily. Building of the new clinic at Anegada was completed by the end of 1974, except for the plumbing. The furniture and equipment will be installed early in 1975. Both projects were financed by the Development Division.

Also paid from Development Division funds was the supply of the following equipment for Peebles Hospital, which has been installed and is working well:

Autoclave for the operation room.

Washing machine and clothes drier for the laundry.

Maintenance work was also carried out to the plumbing and electrical circuits by the Public Works Department and the whole hospital was painted inside and out by a voluntary group of young men. A new baby incubator was donated by the Lions Club of Tortola. New equipment was also obtained from funds provided by the Peebles Hospital Fund Committee who received many donations from private benefactors.

Plans for the renovation and extension of Peebles Hospital are now well under way. Following a feasibility study, Mr. Tom Crook, Hospital Planning Consultant appointed under United Kingdom Technical Assistance visited Tortola in September–October 1974 and prepared specifications for a new wing to be added to the Peebles Hospital at an estimated cost of \$810,000 plus \$150,000 for new equipment. Mr. Ira Smith, Architect in the Public Works Department, has prepared a set of sketch plans for the new wing. These were submitted to Mr. Norman Bean, the Development Division Architect in Barbados, and were approved in principle, subject to certain minor modifications. It is hoped that construction of the new wing will begin in 1975.

On the Public Health side the Aedes Aegypti Eradication Campaign was continued. After eight cycles of treatment the Aedes index was reduced from 47 to 0.6. It is hoped that two more cycles may eliminate the problem. At present the programme is handicapped by lack of insecticide but a further supply has been requested from the Pan-American Health Organisation.

Garbage collection has improved during the year, as the Department now has two Bedford trucks and one Land Rover for this purpose.

The Mental Health Programme has made considerable progress

during the year. The personnel now comprises a Consultant Psychiatrist (part-time), a Psychiatric Social Worker (half-time), and a fully trained Mental Nurse who has been employed whole-time in the programme since July 1974. The number of psychotic patients sent to the Mental Hospital in Antigua has been reduced from 20 in 1973 to 3 in 1974. Arrangements are being made to provide the staff with a proper headquarters early in 1975 and it is hoped that a Mental Health Association will shortly be formed. Proper accommodation for mental patients will be provided at Peebles Hospital when the new wing is built.

Legislation

A new Medical Act was passed in November 1974 which will provide for the registration in the British Virgin Islands of medical practitioners who qualified in the United States and Canada as well as those who possess qualifications registrable with the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom.

An Ordinance was enacted in December 1974 to provide for the Registration of Nurses, Midwives and Assistant Nurses in the Territory, and to draw up regulations concerned therewith.

Staff

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. J. A. Lorimer, left the territory on completion of his contract on 27th September, 1974 and was replaced by Dr. H. P. Watson, appointed on contract from Trinidad. Dr. K. Mann, Medical Officer/Anaesthetist, left in August 1974 and was replaced on 1st December, 1974 by Dr. Julian Birch, under Overseas Service Aid Scheme terms from the United Kingdom.

Dr. Jana Downing left in June and was replaced in July by Dr. Joyce Brewley, a native of Tortola, on completion of her medical training with the University of the West Indies.

There is still no Government Medical Officer in Virgin Gorda and the people are dependent on the services of a doctor appointed and remunerated by the Medical Committee of Virgin Gorda, a purely voluntary body. He does, however, have the free use of the Valley Clinic, Government quarters and public transport.

There were no vacancies in the nursing establishment, but several nurses were away for training overseas and it was still very difficult to maintain the three shift system at the hospital.

Hospital Services

Peebles Hospital maintained its basic complement of 34 beds, plus a potential maximum of four beds in isolation. Hospital cases

discharged are listed under Appendix A and the number of deaths under Appendix B.

The Infirmary has four beds for men and four for women, mostly old people, the criterion for admission being indigence rather than sickness.

Statistics, Peebles Hospital

	1973	1974
Patients admitted (including new born babies)	1,040	1,119
Clinic attendances	3,360	3,610
Casualty Department attendances	5,784	4,383
Major operations	218	240
Minor operations	119	285
Deaths in hospital	37	24
Number of babies born in hospital	233	214
Laboratory tests carried out	10,280	10,538
Number of patients X-rayed	1,382	1,612

Clinics were maintained at Road Town Health Centre and at East End, Cappaon's Bay, Cane Garden Bay, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. Each clinic has one or more nurses in attendance and the Medical Officers make regular visits to each one. The Road Town Public Health Clinic has become a model for the practice of Community Medicine in the Caribbean area and the University of the West Indies has asked for permission to send their students there for special training in this field.

Vital Statistics

Mid-year population (estimated by Statistics Department)	10,000
Birth rate	24.9 per 1,000 population
Death rate	7.8 per 1,000 population
Total live births	249
Total still births	5
Deaths	78 (including 5 neonatal deaths)

Population by age and sex with percentage distribution (1970 census) is shown at Appendix C.

Public Health

The Public Health Service worked smoothly throughout the year. More Child Health Clinics were held than in the year 1973 but the number of sick infants was considerably less. Attendance at the

Family Planning and Cervical (Pap Smear) Clinics improved. The immunisation programme was continued and intensified. Very few children now remain unprotected against poliomyelitis, tetanus, small-pox and diphtheria.

Figures for immunisation in 1974 are as follows:

Small-pox									
Primary vaccination									246
Re-vaccination									274
Tuberculosis									
Patients tested									276
B.C.G. inoculation given									73
Poliomyelitis									768
D.P.T.									685
Tetanus and Polio									690
Tetanus Toxoid alone									233
Typhoid Fever (TAB)									163
Measles inoculation									74

The following special clinics were held:

Ante-natal Clinic									244
Number of clinics held									244
Total attendance									765
New cases under 20 weeks									75
New cases over 20 weeks									110
Post-natal Clinic (including Cervical (Pap Smear) Clinics)									
Number of clinics held									23
Total attendance									174
Family Planning Clinic									
Number of clinics held									23
Total attendance									304
Infant Welfare									
Number of clinics held									357
Total attendance									5,497
Homes visited									20
School Health									
School visits									75
Children examined									385
Children treated for worms									1,382
Referred to Dental Surgeon									376
Diabetic Clinics									
Number of clinics held									50
Total attendance									615
New cases seen									16
Food Handlers' and Immigration Clinics									
Number of clinics held									50
Attendance: Food Handlers									425
Attendance: Immigration									482
Psychiatric Clinics									
Number of clinics held									48
Total attendance									320

In addition, 295 house visits were made by the staff of the Mental Health Programme, making a total of 615 consultations throughout the year.

There is no special clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease in the Territory, at present. Some patients are treated at general medical clinics and others prefer to seek attention from private practitioners. It is estimated that a total of 200 patients were treated for venereal diseases (mostly gonorrhoea) during the year.

School Health

All school children were medically examined on entry to primary schools, again on entry to the High School and when leaving school. Booster immunisations were carried out at these school visits.

Child Welfare

A child welfare clinic was held at the Public Health Clinic in Road Town once a week, with doctors and nurses attending. Monthly clinics were also held in out-stations at Meyers, Belle Vue, Sea Cow's Bay and West End for this purpose, attended by a doctor and a nurse. Children were also seen at the Hospital Clinic and the peripheral clinics at East End, Cappaon's Bay, Cane Garden Bay, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada.

Child Welfare clinics held	.	.	.	259
Total attendance	.	.	.	6,214

Blood Transfusion

A register is kept of voluntary blood donors. This donor panel works well and fresh blood can usually be obtained when required in an emergency. Blood can also be stored for short periods in a special refrigerator in the laboratory in the hospital. The Red Cross Society has been of great help in the development of the blood donor service.

Prison Health Service

Periodic visits were made to Her Majesty's Prison by one of the Medical Officers and prisoners with minor complaints received treatment at the Hospital Clinic when necessary.

External Aid Services

Visits to the British Virgin Islands were made at various times by representatives of P.A.H.O./W.H.O. in connection with the Aedes

Aegypti Eradication Programme, epidemiology, statistics and health education, when valuable advice was given in these particular fields.

Dental Department

School children's sessions were held each morning (Monday to Friday) and adults were treated in the afternoons. Extractions under general anaesthesia were performed once each week. There has been an increase in the number of attendances in 1974.

Attendance figures for school children:

	1973	1974
Total attendance	1,341	1,578
Extractions	1,497	1,843
Fillings	691	1,208
Ratio of fillings to extractions	1:2	2:3

The cost of materials, equipment and services for dentistry have greatly increased over the year, owing to world-wide inflation.

Chapter 9: Legislation

DURING the year 1974 sixteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature and forty-seven Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

The most important Ordinances were:

- (a) Customs Duties Ordinance to repeal and replace the Customs Duties Ordinance Cap. 106;
- (b) Public Library Service Ordinance to provide for the establishment, control, regulation and management of library facilities in the Virgin Islands and for all purposes connected therewith or incidental thereto;
- (c) Development Bank of the Virgin Islands Ordinance to make provision for the creation of a Development Bank in the Virgin Islands;
- (d) Nurses, Midwives and Assistant Nurses Registration Ordinance to provide for the registration of Nurses, Midwives and Assistant Nurses and other purposes connected therewith;
- (e) Arbitration Ordinance to adopt as far as may be the provisions of the Arbitration Act, 1950 of the United Kingdom;

- (f) Medical Act (Amendment) Ordinance which now enables all holders of recognised American and Canadian medical qualifications to be registered to practise in the British Virgin Islands;
- (g) Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Amendment) Ordinance which inter alia increases the jurisdiction of the Magistrate in civil cases to \$1,000 in contract and \$500 in tort; and increases the maximum amounts that may be awarded in maintenance.

Of the Statutory Rules and Orders the most important were:

- (a) The Supplies and Energy (Control) (Electricity) Regulations;
- (b) Resolution by the Legislative Council amending the first Schedule to the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance;
- (c) The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Fees and Duties) (Amendment) Order;
- (d) The Post Office (Amendment) Rules;
- (e) The Carriage by Air (Sterling Equivalents) (Virgin Islands) Order;
- (f) The Supplies and Energy (Control) (Electricity) (Amendment) Regulations;
- (g) Proclamation dated 30th May, 1974 declaring the areas known as Virgin Gorda Peak, Fallen Jerusalem and West Dog to be National Parks;
- (h) Proclamation dated 12th June, 1974 declaring 0.7 of an acre of land at McNamara in Road Town in the Island of Tortola a National Park;
- (i) The Fugitive Offenders (Virgin Islands) (Commencement) Order;
- (j) The Fugitive Offenders (Forms) Regulations;
- (k) The Fugitive Offenders (Designated Commonwealth Countries) Order;
- (l) The Fugitive Offenders (Designated Commonwealth Countries) (No. 2) Order;
- (m) Proclamation dated 10th July, 1974 bringing into operation the Anegada (Repeal) Ordinance, 1973;
- (n) Supplies and Energy (Control) (Supply Officer) Order;
- (o) Supplies and Energy (Control) (Closing and Opening Hours) Regulations;
- (p) Supplies and Energy (Control) (Storage of Petroleum) Regulations.

Chapter 10: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

JUSTICE is administered in the Territory by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court comprising the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice; the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court.

COURT OF APPEAL

The Court of Appeal comprising the Chief Justice and two Justices of Appeal sits in the Territory at times selected by the Chief Justice. No sittings of the Court of Appeal were held. The Chief Justice sits as the President of this Court. Appeals from the High Court of Justice, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the Magistrate's Court and the Juvenile Court lie to the Court of Appeal. In certain cases there is also a further appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Privy Council.

HIGH COURT

The High Court is presided over by a Puisne Judge. It has an original jurisdiction in all matters which are heard and determined by the High Court of Justice in England. The Chief Justice may select the Judge assigned to any State to exercise the jurisdiction of the Court in relation to the Virgin Islands. The Puisne Judge resident in the State of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla was accordingly selected to exercise this responsibility in the Virgin Islands.

General sittings of the High Court in its criminal and civil jurisdiction were held during the months of March and October.

COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION

It is intended that the Magistrate should take over the powers of the Puisne Judge under the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

The Magistrate's Court hears and determines complaints on information for summary offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$1,000·00 in contract and \$500·00 in tort. The Territory is a single magisterial district and the jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act.

THE JUVENILE COURT

The Magistrate, sitting with two assessors, presides over the Juvenile Court.

STATISTICS OF COURT MATTERS

Statistics of Civil and Criminal Appeals, Civil and Criminal cases tried by the High Court, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court during 1973 and 1974 are given below:

Appeals—High Court of Justice

<i>Civil</i>	1973	1974
Appeals filed	23	19
Allowed	1	—
Dismissed	—	—
Pending	18	19
Withdrawn	1	—
Discontinued	3	—
 <i>Criminal</i>		
Appeals filed	—	2
Allowed	—	—
Dismissed	—	—
Pending	—	1
Withdrawn	—	1
Discontinued	—	—

Appeals—Court of Summary Jurisdiction

Appeals filed	—	—
Magisterial Appeals	—	—
 <i>Civil</i>		
Appeals filed	1	—
Withdrawn	—	—

High Court of Justice

<i>Civil</i>		
No. disposed of	71	19
Summary	—	—
Criminal	7	18

Magistrate's Court—Cases Disposed of for 1973 and 1974

Criminal cases	298	273
Quasi-Criminal cases	10	6
Traffic offences	219	260
Preliminary inquiries	35	9
Civil cases	75	39

Juvenile Court—Cases Disposed of for 1973 and 1974

Criminal cases	29	10
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POLICE

The Royal Virgin Islands Police was established on 26th February, 1967 as a result of constitutional changes in the Leeward Islands.

The 1952 Police Ordinance provides for the establishment of the force and lays down its powers and duties. These are concerned with the "prevention and detection of crime and the repression of internal disturbance". Additionally, the Police were responsible for the following services during 1974:

The Fire Brigade;

The examination, registration and licensing of motor vehicles;

The licensing of firearms.

The following figures give the establishment and strength of the Force during the years 1970–1974:

	1970		1971		1972		1973		1974	
	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.
Chief of Police	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asst. Supt. of Police	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inspector of Police	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Sergeants	2	2	4	4	6	5	5	4	5	4
Corporals	8	8	12	11	11	11	11	9	11	11
M/Constables	23	23	28	25	35	32	39	39	39	39
W/Constables	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	38	38	48	45	56	52	61	58	61	60

Police Stations are located at Road Town, West End in Tortola and at the Valley, Virgin Gorda.

Command

The Force was under command of Mr. Brian Graves until July. Command was assumed by Mr. Rex Jones in September.

Housing

The West End Station was completed and occupied during the year.

Finance

Comparative expenditure figures for the years 1970–1974 are set out below:

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Personal Emoluments	133,850	176,084	187,830	194,432	264,987
Other Charges	33,593	42,093	42,532	54,940	53,325
	<u>167,443</u>	<u>218,177</u>	<u>230,362</u>	<u>249,372</u>	<u>318,312</u>

Recruiting and Training

Section 13 of the Police Act lays down that no person shall be appointed as constable unless:

- (i) he has attained the age of 19 years but not reached 35 years;
- (ii) his height is at least 5 feet 8 inches;
- (iii) he passes a medical examination;
- (iv) he is of good character;
- (v) he has a minimum education of standard 7.

Three male constables joined the Force during 1974. All these originated in the British Virgin Islands following the policy of Government to encourage British Virgin Islanders to join the Force. By the end of 1974 local recruitment formed 45% of the total strength.

No full time police training was available in the Territory during the year. In-service training for S.P.O.s and constables takes the form of bi-weekly lectures, and practical application including drill.

Untrained recruits are usually sent to the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados for a six-month initial training course. At the end of the year, three recruits were undergoing this course. Other training courses attended by members of the Force during 1974 included an Overseas Officers General Course at Hendon, London, a Refresher Course at the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados, Special Branch and Narcotics Courses in Antigua and a C.I.D. Course in Barbados.

Traffic

Registration and Licensing of Vehicles

At the end of 1974 a total of 1,900 motor vehicles was registered and licensed for use on the public roads of the Territory, an increase of 16.7% over the 1973 figure. Figures for 1970-1974 are as follows:

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
833	955	1,291	1,627	1,900

Road Accidents

146 road accidents occurred during 1974 in which five persons were killed and 69 injured.

Comparative figures from 1970–1974 are as follows:

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Total accidents . . .	210	150	143	101	146
Persons killed . . .	4	—	3	1	5
Persons injured . . .	45	37	82	25	69

Driving Tests

During 1974 Police remained responsible for the testing of drivers. Driving tests totalled 382 for 1974 as compared with 539 for 1973.

Examination of Vehicles

A trained police motor mechanic examines vehicles for road-worthiness prior to issuing annual motor vehicle licences.

Fire Brigade

In 1970 the Fire Brigade was amalgamated with the Police Force. Fire tenders are stationed in Road Town, and at the Valley, Virgin Gorda.

In 1974 15 fires were dealt with by the Fire Brigade. There were no deaths or injuries resulting from these incidents. Five false calls were received during this period.

Marine Section

This comprises a 40-foot Brooke Marine Patrol Craft with a crew of four. It was used mainly for police and customs duties and to assist other government departments throughout the year.

Auxiliary Units

At the end of 1974 there were 19 local constables distributed throughout the Territory. Their duties are to preserve the peace and the prevention of offences against persons or property in areas where regular police are not stationed.

*Other Police Duties**Revenue Collection*

Police remained responsible for the sale of driving licences, motor vehicle licences and firearms licences. Revenue collected during 1972, 1973 and 1974 are as follows:

	1972	1973	1974
	\$	\$	\$
Driving Licences	5,677.15	11,682	13,884.50
Motor Vehicle Licences	23,412.78	42,530	47,126.43
Firearms Licences	448.38	649	531.70
Other Fees	385.00	1,360	3,256.00
	<hr/> 29,923.31	<hr/> 56,221	<hr/> 64,798.63

Film Censorship and Transport Commission

The Chief of Police was a member of the Board of Film Censors appointed by the Governor under the provisions of Section 4 of the Cinematograph Ordinance Cap. 211, and a member of the Public Transport Commission under the provisions of Section 3(1) of the Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance Cap. 198.

Control of Firearms

Permits to keep and carry firearms were issued by the Police, after approval by the Governor. At the end of 1974 the firearms registered in the Territory were as follows:

Rifles	28
Shotguns	56
Handguns	15
	<hr/>
Total	99
	<hr/>

Crime and C.I.D.

(See Appendix D)

PRISONS

General

The British Virgin Islands Prison Service is established under the Prisons Ordinance Cap. 166. The service comes within the portfolio of the Chief Minister.

The accommodation at the Prison remained unaltered, but security was improved towards the end of the year, by the addition of perimeter wall fencing and security compound lighting. Re-wiring and installation of cell security lighting was also completed. Generally the lack of amenities, training and rehabilitation facilities continue to present problems.

Administration and Staff

During the year there was no change in the administration, which remained under the command of the Chief of Police, who is also designated as Keeper of the Prison.

The establishment of Prison staff consists of one prison corporal and four prison officers. A shortage of one prison officer existed at the end of the year. The Visiting Justices of the prison carried out a regular schedule of visits and inspections.

Health and Diet

No serious health problems were noted during the year. Government medical officers visited the prison whenever requested.

The diet is in accordance with Schedule (B) to the Prison Ordinance and is adequate. Variations of diet and the provision of fresh fruit is made within the scale laid down.

Prison Statistics 1974

*Table I (Prison Population 1974)
(Types of Prisoners)*

		Totals			
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Population at 1.1.74	Convicted	8	—	—	—
	Remanded	3	—	11	—
Admissions 1974	Convicted	27	—	—	—
	Remanded	22	1	49	1
Discharges 1974	Convicted	23	—	—	—
	Remanded	25	1	48	1
Population at 31.12.74	Convicted	12	—	12	—
	Remanded	—	—	—	—

Table II (Age Groups of convicted prisoners 1974)

				Male	Female
Juveniles (under 16 years).	.	.	.	—	—
Over 16 and under 21 years	.	.	.	12	—
Over 21 and under 25 years	.	.	.	8	—
Over 25 and under 50 years	.	.	.	7	—
Over 50 years.	.	.	.	—	—
Totals				27	—
				—	—

Table III (Sentences of convicted prisoners 1974)

	Male	Female
Under 1 month	4	—
Over 1 and under 3 months	9	—
Over 3 and under 6 months	4	—
Over 6 and under 12 months	2	—
Over 12 and under 18 months	4	—
Over 18 months	4	—
Life imprisonment	—	—
Totals	27	—

Table IV (Offences of convicted prisoners 1974)

	Male	Female
Offences against the person	1	—
Offences against property	10	—
Possession of dangerous drugs	2	—
Traffic offences	1	—
Miscellaneous statutory offences	13	—
Totals	27	—

Table V (Prison Service Expenditure 1970-1974)

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Personal Emoluments.	8,045	7,978	6,828	13,993	19,924
Other Charges	4,915	4,017	3,965	6,250	10,750
	<u>12,960</u>	<u>11,995</u>	<u>10,793</u>	<u>20,243</u>	<u>30,674</u>

Chapter 11: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY

THE year of 1974 can be considered more of a period of consolidation than of expansion. Although the peak demand increased from 2,430 kW to 2,500 kW, the total number of units (Kilowatt hours) generated fell from 12,817,128 to 12,326,951 reflecting the greater cost consciousness of the average consumer brought about by the introduction of the oil surcharge and the campaign introduced in December, 1973 for greater economy in the use of electrical energy.

Notwithstanding this reduced consumption, the programme of expansion continues with the development of private houses, hotels and marine installations. The number of consumers increased from 2,624 at the end of 1973 to 2,703 at the end of 1974.

The following comparisons with previous years' operations are shown as follows:

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Total Units Generated	4,202,825	6,046,643	7,411,778	10,091,179	12,827,128	12,326,952
Total Units Sold	3,712,846	5,189,160	6,275,838	9,727,262	11,639,393	11,062,869
Peak Demand	1,035	1,320	2,000	2,290	2,430	2,500
Number of Consumers	1,499	1,829	2,170	2,408	2,640	2,703

On 20th December, 1974, a 60 kW diesel alternator set was commissioned on the island of Anegada and since then has provided power for 8 hours daily from 4.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight to consumers in the Settlement area. A total of 23 consumers is expected to take advantage of this service before mid-1975.

An order for a further 1,190 kW diesel driven alternator set was placed in November, 1974, and it is hoped to have this unit commissioned and in operation before the end of 1976. The present installed capacity in the Long Bush Power Station on Tortola is 4,000 kW with a safe load capacity of some 2,500 kW. This safe load capacity will, it is hoped, be increased to 2,816 kW by May, 1975.

PUBLIC WORKS

Water Supply

Road Town Water Supply

The beginning of 1974 was dry with a total precipitation of only 13 inches of rainfall recorded to the end of July. High salinity was recorded in the water supply borehole at the Road Town Agricultural Station and as a precautionary measure the old well at the Agricultural Station was reconditioned and provided with a 40 gallon minimum capacity pump to augment the Road Town Water Supply. The supply was restricted to eleven hours per day in August, but full supply conditions were restored in November 1974, when the seasonal rains had replenished the aquifer to a satisfactory extent and the quality of water in the wells improved.

Country Water Supply

New wells were dug at Pleasant Valley and at Sea Cows Bay yielding approximately 6 g.p.m. and 10 g.p.m. respectively.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A small sewerage scheme serves a section of Road Town and Wickhams Cay with a direct outflow into the sea. Plans have been put in hand to update the sewerage system and to provide a treatment plant above the outfall.

Building Projects

During 1974 the Belle Vue Primary School building and the West End Police Station were completed and occupied as well as the new Plaza Office Building in Road Town. Plans for surfacing and planting the Town Plaza were prepared.

Work on the Anegada Clinic and the extension work to the Robinson O'Neal Memorial School on Virgin Gorda were started and considerable progress was made on the Beef Island Airfield Terminal Building. Plans were completed for the proposed Road Town Primary School and work was progressing on the proposed Carrot Bay Primary School Project and the proposed New Peebles Hospital designs.

*Roads**Tortola Roads*

Work was started on providing a 10 ft. wide concrete surface to the Joe's Hill and Cane Garden Bay Roads including drainage improvement works and passing bays. Some of the concrete drifts on the Fort Shirley and Belle Vue road were replaced with culverts and plans were approved for eliminating the remaining drifts and extending the concrete surface on this road to the junction with the Ridge Road. The main road from Beef Island to West End was extensively damaged as a result of a prolonged period of heavy rains but repair works were well advanced by the year end. Surfacing work was completed on roads in the housing areas of Lower Estate and Huntums Ghut and Horse Path.

Virgin Gorda Roads

The surfacing work to the Valley/Pond Bay Road was completed during the year.

Chapter 12: Communications

A RELIABLE daily launch service exists between the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands—except on Sundays. Beef Island Airport, which was opened in 1969, has a runway of 3,200 feet and is capable of receiving Avro 748 48-seat turbo-prop aircraft. The new terminal building under construction is due to be completed next year. The Anegada airfield has been surfaced to a length of 2,500 feet by 60 feet wide along with a parking apron 150 feet square. Virgin Gorda airstrip, operated by the Little Dix Bay Corporation, has also been improved since 1973 with the thresholds of the runway and apron extended and resurfaced and a parking area provided for cars.

Scheduled and chartered air services were operated by Leeward Islands Air Transport, AIR B.V.I., Prinair, All Island Air, White Sands Aviation, Caribbean Air Services, Anguilla Airways, Dorado Wings and Trade Wings—the major carriers.

In addition to the services provided by coastal ships and sloops, shipping services to the Territory continued to be maintained by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company from London and Amsterdam, Atlantic Lines from New York, Booker Lines from Liverpool and PANAM Lines from Miami.

In November 1973 the Noyal Caribbe Lines of Norway launched a new Roll On/Roll Off trans-shipment service bringing Volkswagen cars ex-Brazil; in July 1974 the Borinquen Lines commenced a similar weekly service from Puerto Rico, serving Tortola, St. Maarten, St. Barths, Antigua and St. Kitts; and in October 1974, the Dutch owned Tern Line also began a monthly service from Miami, calling directly at Tortola, thence Trinidad and return to Miami via Barbados and Nassau, accepting cargo for those destinations on the south bound leg.

Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd., continued to operate the territory's telephone and telegraph service. The number of local telephone subscribers increased from 1,271 to 1,368 and telephone instruments in use from 2,038 to 2,208. The distribution cable system was improved by the installation of a large new cable with a capacity of 1,200 pairs of telephone lines; construction of the Joe's Hill duct route was commenced and two surveys carried out with a view to increasing the Virgin Gorda junction circuits and to provide a cable television system on Tortola by the end of 1975.

Work has been completed on the Tortola section of the Eastern Caribbean Microwave Link Project by Cable and Wireless. Construction of a microwave tower and a special microwave building to

house the associated power equipment along with a multiplex building for the new communication equipment has been completed and put into operation at its international communications terminal at Chalwell, Tortola. The microwave system has replaced the present tropospheric scatter system. The object is to increase the capacity of this route from 96 to 960 telephone channels.

Cable and Wireless has also installed an international maintenance centre for monitoring and correcting the quality of transmission on its international circuits.

Postal Services

During the year four special issues of postage stamps were released, viz: Interpex 1974 featuring Naval Crests, Historical Figures, Sea Shells and the Churchill Centenary Omnibus Issues. In recognition of the very successful First Coinage Philatelic and Numismatic (P.N.C.) Covers issued in 1973 the Government was this year awarded the "Country of the Year Award" by the Society of Philatelics and Numismatics which was presented at a symposium—breakfast at Bal Harbour, Florida on 18th August. The Territory was represented by the Accountant General, who received the award on behalf of Government.

Air mail and local delivery services were maintained at the 1973 level.

Customer Subscription Services were introduced at the Philatelic Bureau in January and at the end of the year the Bureau had recorded two hundred and twenty-three account holders.

Chapter 13: Press, Broadcasting, Film and Information Services

THE only local newspaper, *The Island Sun*, with a circulation of 2,000 is published weekly.

The B.V. Islander, a monthly magazine, commenced publication in January but this was suspended in September with the collapse of its proprietors the Sterling Bank of Cayman and its B.V.I. subsidiary the Development Corporation of Anegada. A similar monthly publication, the *Virgin Islander*, with a circulation of 6,000, produced by the Virgin Islands Publishing Co. Ltd., began circulation in November and features articles on items of interest to both the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

There is a commercial radio station (Z.B.V.I.) located at Baughers Bay, Tortola, which has been in operation since 1964. The Station operates at 780 kilocycles with 10,000 watts and covers most of the Eastern Caribbean.

In December 1973 Television (W.I.) Ltd. commenced transmission from Z.B.T.V. Channel 5 located at Chalwell, Tortola. TV programmes from its TV Channel on St. Maarten are being relayed to Channel 5 via its cable transmitter on Saba Island.

There is one cinema—the Carib Theatre—in Road Town which shows feature films. British news-reels and films on loan from the Central Office of Information were shown by the Community Development Department and were made available to voluntary organisations.

The Government issues news releases to the press and radio informing the public of all Government news of general interest. Fact sheets and hand-outs are also available at the Tourist Office to persons desiring information on the British Virgin Islands.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

POSITION

THE Virgin Islands archipelago, in which the largest islands are the United States islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix, contain over forty British islands, islets and rocks. These are some 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 140 miles north-west of St. Kitts, and straddle latitude $18^{\circ} 25'N$ and longitude $64^{\circ} 30'W$. They rest on the Greater Antilles submarine ridge and its eastern extremity and are separated from the Lesser Antilles by the deeper water of the Anegada Passage.

In distribution, the islands fall into four groups. To the south, with a west-to-south to east-north-east trend and extending overall for some 20 miles, are a series of cays terminating in the island of Virgin Gorda. This group is separated from the parallel group of Great Thatch, Tortola and Beef Island, which extends for about 15 miles, by the shallow three to four miles wide Sir Francis Drake's Channel. To the north-west of the Tortola group, and again separated by a further shallow channel, lie the Tobago Cays and Great and Little Jost Van Dyke. The Dogs form a connecting link between the first and second groups. Anegada forms a fourth unit, lying about 30 miles north of Virgin Gorda and to the north-east of Tortola. The islands are approximately 1,700 miles from New York and 3,800 miles from Britain. The total area is 59 square miles.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

With the exception of Anegada the islands are hilly. Tortola is composed of a long chain of hills which are uninterrupted by any transverse valley or pass, so that although the island is nowhere more than about three miles wide, it is impossible to cross from shore to shore without ascending nearly 1,200 feet. The highest point is Sage Mountain, 1,780 feet. Jost Van Dyke is a geological and topographical replica of Tortola. Virgin Gorda rises to a central peak 1,370 feet high throwing off a lateral ridge to form a long narrow peninsula on the eastern side. Its southern promontory is comparatively flat. All the remaining islands, except Anegada, rise precipitously from the sea. Anegada is very different, being remarkably flat, with extensive beaches at the western end.

All the islands except Anegada are formed of volcanic breccias and highly contorted metamorphosed sediments, into which diorites and pegmatites have been intruded. It is in rocks of this kind that metalliferous veins occur, for example in Virgin Gorda where molybdenum and copper deposits are found. Anegada has no such rocks and is a recently uplifted coral island consisting entirely of limestone.

The soils of the Virgin Islands have never been studied in detail. On all the islands except Anegada there are shallow friable and permeable brown loams, with frequent outcrops of bare rocks. Anegada has very little soil; limestone outcrops are extensive and there is very little surface water. Soils throughout the islands appear to be young, immature and probably the rockiest and stoniest in the world. There are no perennial streams.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The islands lie within the Trade Wind belt and possess a subtropical climate. Maximum summer temperatures are usually about 87°F., and winter minimum temperatures drop to 67°F. Sea breezes sometimes temper the summer heat and usually there is a fall of up to 10°F at night. Hurricanes occur infrequently.

Rainfall records have been taken since 1901 and an average amount of 53 inches has been recorded on Tortola's lower land. It is known that much Caribbean rainfall is convectional, and it increases to a height of about 7,000 feet and then decreases. Sage Mountain is 1,780 feet and may be presumed to have about 80 inches. All the other islands appear to have less than 50 inches, probably about 35 inches.

Owing to the low rainfall and the permeability of the soils on the islands, only xerophytic types of vegetation were originally represented. These original forests have been thoroughly cut over and reduced to a much smaller and degraded bush. When fellings are made, any trees too short to be utilised, particularly for the burning of charcoal, are generally left standing. It is usual to find pastures and cultivated plots dotted with trees of *Pisonia subcordata* and *Bursera simaruba*. When land is abandoned and reverts to bush an invasive thicket fills up between these standard trees. In dry, rocky places, the initial thicket is formed chiefly of croton bushes, mainly *Croton rigidus*. In moister parts the Asiatic shrub *Leucaena glauca* is the chief invader. There are clumps of stunted mangrove around the coast in many of the islands. On Sage Mountain, Tortola, there is a fragment of an unusual forest type. It has no counterpart anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, nor in nearby Puerto Rico. The

flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola. Being of scientific interest, this remnant of xerophytic rain forest has been declared a Protected Area under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance. The area has been purchased and fenced and will be permanently protected as a nature reserve under the administration of the National Parks Trust.

The vegetation of the limestone island of Anegada differs from the other islands and is considerably more degraded. There is sparse growth of croton bushes, mainly *Croton discolor*. Here and there stand isolated trees of *Bursera*, *Pisonia*, *Lonchocarpus*, relics of the original forest, and between them stand huge agaves and columnar cacti.

POPULATION

Except for a small number of persons of European, American and Asian origin, the population is of African extraction. Approximately 35 per cent of the population lives in Road Town, the capital of the Territory, and its environs. A somewhat lower percentage lives in East End/Long Look which is the only other area approaching the size and status of a township. The main out-islands, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, have relatively small populations and only a few families live on the smaller inhabited islands. Three of these islets, Guana Island, Peter Island and Marina Cay, are tourist resorts.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In consequence of the severe limitations imposed by rugged topography, steep slopes, meagre soil resources and unreliable water supply, agriculture is difficult in the territory. Agricultural history shows the production of numerous crops—sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and others—but such production has always been marginal and cultivation has been abandoned at the first sign of adversity. Such cultivation as is possible is confined almost exclusively to ground provisions, some of which are sold for home consumption and the remainder exported. The supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is increasingly inadequate and the greater part of these commodities is imported.

The topography and climate are, however, fairly well suited for the cultivation of grass and for many years there has been a livestock industry.

Up to the outbreak of the Second World War this traditional

agricultural economy, small holdings with the raising of livestock and production of fruit, vegetables and ground provisions, for subsistence and a small cash income, went on relatively unaffected by the outside world. However, the demand for labour in the United States Virgin Islands for military construction and later in the tourist industry, seriously depleted the local labour force and has led to an increasing decline in agricultural and livestock production.

It is now generally accepted that the Territory can never become economically viable with small-scale agriculture and livestock raising as a base, and that attention must be turned to the exploitation of the islands' natural features for tourism. The topography, geological formation and relationship of the various islands to each other and the surrounding sea provide a setting for tourists. The protected Sir Francis Drake's Channel and Western Roads, in fact the whole area, provide a centre for boating and fishing enthusiasts. The economic outlook, therefore, is tourism as a resource base with agriculture and fishing geared to it as supporting activities. Development planning has taken place on this assumption.

Chapter 2: History

THE Virgin Islands were discovered on 17th November, 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named them Las Virgenes in honour of St. Ursula and her 11,000 virgins, according to the generally accepted account.

For nearly 100 years nothing is recorded about the Virgin Islands until 1595, when Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through the former, leaving his name in Sir Francis Drake's Channel. A year later the Earl of Cumberland sailed amongst them, his chronicle describing them as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren, craggy".

The islands were occupied by Dutch buccaneers in 1648 who were driven out in 1666 by a band of similar English adventurers.

Not until 1672 did any Government take note of the Virgins. This was the year that Denmark claimed St. Thomas, and Colonel Stapleton, Governor of the Leeward Islands, annexed Tortola to the British Crown, demolishing the fort and forcing the inhabitants to move to St. Kitts. Eight years later, several English planters and their families settled on Virgin Gorda. Meanwhile, pirates and buccaneers had again established themselves on Tortola where their activities were not wholly directed to leading the peaceful life of

planters. More planters, however, arrived in 1700 and by 1717 a census of the population showed that there were 317 whites on Virgin Gorda and 159 on Tortola.

In 1756 the planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and constitutional Courts of Justice. A second petition in 1773 was successful and Constitutional Government was established with a completely elected House of Assembly (12 members) and a partly elected, partly nominated, Legislative Council or "Board". The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February, 1774.

Cotton, rather than sugar, seems to have been the staple crop of these early days, the crop in 1743 amounting to 1 million pounds (this includes Anguilla) against but 1,000 hogshead of sugar.

In the time of the Napoleonic wars, the Sir Francis Drake Channel became a rendezvous for British ships homeward bound and the presence of numerous merchant ships brought a good deal of trade to Tortola. With the end of these wars there commenced a period of decline and by the time of the abolition of slavery, 1st August, 1838, the trade of the islands was languishing. The landed proprietors left and the islands continued to decline economically until by 1900 the whole export and import trade was valued at only £6,199.

The British Virgin Islands surrendered their constitution in 1867. The Assembly of Council was abolished and a Legislative Council of 6 non-elected members—three ex-officio and three nominated—was substituted. In 1872, the Federation of the Leeward Islands was created and the separate colonies, including the British Virgin Islands, became Presidencies. In 1889, the official designation of President was, however, changed to Commissioner. In 1902, the Legislative Council was abolished.

A Legislative Council with elected representatives was reintroduced in 1950. This system of Government continued, with minor changes, until 1967 when, under a revised Constitution, the Ministerial System of Government was introduced into the territory for the first time. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker, chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), one Nominated Member, appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister, and seven Elected Members returned from seven one-member electoral districts. The Executive Council comprises the Governor as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister appointed by the Governor as the Elected Member who appears best able to command a majority in the Legislative Council, and two other Ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. Responsibility for

defence and internal security, external affairs, the Civil Service, finance and the Administration of the Courts rests with the Governor. However, proposals for a new Constitution are currently under consideration by Government.

Following the decline of the plantation system, the territory became a society of small farmers and fishermen. A large number of the younger population migrated to the neighbouring United States Virgin Islands where employment opportunities were afforded to them particularly since the Second World War, as a result of the development taking place there. In view of this trend and the importance of St. Thomas as an entrepôt port and a shopping centre, the economy of the islands has been, and still is, closely bound up with that of their American neighbours. The currency in both official and practical use is the United States dollar, the territory being the only place in the sterling area where this obtains.

Following are some of the important dates in the territory's history:

- 1493 Discovery by Christopher Columbus
- 1595 Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins passed through channel which now bears the name of the former
- 1648 Temporary settlement on Tortola by Dutch Buccaneers
- 1666 Party of English Buccaneers drove out the Dutch
- 1680 Planters from Anguilla settled on Virgin Gorda
- 1717 First Census
- 1727 First Quaker Missionary arrived at Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda
- 1741 John Pickering—first Governor
- 1744 John Coakley Lettsome born at Jost Van Dyke
- 1745 First Anglican Missionary arrived
- 1753 Peasant insurrection in Tortola
- 1756 Planters petitioned unsuccessfully for civil government and Constitutional Courts of Justice
- 1773 Constitutional Government granted
- 1774 Legislative met for the first time
- 1778 Samuel and Mary Nottingham, Quakers, freed their slaves and gave them their estate, Long Look
- 1789 First Wesleyan Missionary arrived
- 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade
- 1811 Execution of Arthur Hodge
- 1816 St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and Virgin Islands made separate Colony
- 1819 Severe Hurricane
- 1838 Abolition of Slavery
- 1867 Virgin Islands surrendered constitution: Legislative Council substituted for Assembly and Courts
- 1872 Federation of Leeward Islands
- 1900 Establishment of Agricultural Experiment Station
- 1902 Abolition of Legislative Council
- 1916 Severe Hurricane
- 1924 Severe Hurricane

- 1950 Presidential Legislature reconstituted
- 1956 Defederation of Leeward Islands Colony and establishment of Colony of the Virgin Islands.
- 1960 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal
- 1960 The office of the Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished on 31st December, 1959 and the Administrator became the Queen's Representative
- 1966 Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- 1967 Revised Constitution introduced on 30th March, 1967 bringing Ministerial Government into effect
- 1971 The post of Administrator was upgraded to the rank of Governor
- 1972 Visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Chapter 3: Administration

Central Government

THE Colony of the Virgin Islands came into existence on 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into force of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956 (S.I. No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (4 & 5 Eliz. 2 Chap. 23). This Act constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony (Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands) as separate colonies.

A new constitution was brought into effect by the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order 1967, in April 1967. It provided for the first time for a Ministerial system. The Governor remains responsible for defence and internal security, external affairs, the civil service, the administration of courts and finance, and continues to have reserved legislative powers necessary in the exercise of his special responsibilities, but on other matters is normally bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of the Governor as Chairman, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), the Chief Minister, appointed by the Governor as the elected member who appears best able to command a majority and two other ministers appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Legislative Council consists of a Speaker chosen from outside the Council, two ex-officio members (the Attorney General and Financial Secretary), one nominated member appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister and seven elected members returned from seven one-member electoral districts.

Justice was formerly administered in the Territory by the Supreme

Court of the Windward and Leeward Islands, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court, and a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court visited the islands twice a year. With the replacement of the Supreme Court by the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court, arrangements have been made for this Court to serve the Virgin Islands.

Local Government

There were no local Government organisations in the territory and little or no interest was shown in this subject.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

STANDARD Imperial Weights and Measures are used in the territory. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government Inspectors is required by law.

Chapter 5: Reading List

A FULLER bibliography including a number of older works was included in the report for 1970. The following list is selective.

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APPENDIX A

Number of Hospital Discharges, by Cause of Hospitalisation (List C of International Classification of Diseases), and by Age, 1974

Cause	Total	Age group in years						
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
All causes	728	33	56	52	212	231	82	62
C1 Typhoid, paratyphoid fever, other salmonella infections	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
C2 Bacillary dysentery and Amoebiasis	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
C3 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal disease	21	6	9	1	2	—	3	—
C11 Measles	6	1	2	1	1	1	—	—
C13 Infectious hepatitis	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
C20 Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	11	—	—	—	—	1	6	4
C21 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	12	—	—	—	3	5	3	1
C22 Thyrotoxicosis with or without goitre	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
C23 Diabetes mellitus	25	—	—	2	1	3	12	7
C24 Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
C25 Other endocrine and metabolic disease	4	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
C26 Anaemias	11	—	1	5	1	4	—	—
C27 Psychoses and non-psychotic mental disorders	32	—	—	—	12	14	4	2
C31 Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs	14	—	4	3	—	3	3	1
C32 Acute rheumatic fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
C33 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
C34 Hypertensive disease	16	—	—	—	—	—	7	9
C35 Ischaemic heart disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
C36 Cerebrovascular disease	11	—	—	—	—	2	3	6
C37 Venous thrombosis and embolism	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
C38 Other diseases of circulatory system	16	—	—	—	1	2	5	8
C39 Acute respiratory infections	12	1	3	1	3	2	—	2
C40 Influenza	7	—	1	1	2	1	1	1
C41 Pneumonia	13	2	1	5	1	1	3	—
C42 Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	28	3	13	3	3	1	4	1
C45 Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
C47 Reptic ulcer	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
C48 Appendicitis	18	—	—	3	6	6	2	1
C49 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	20	4	4	4	—	4	2	2
C50 Cholelithiasis and cholecystitis	5	—	—	—	—	5	—	—

Cause	Total	Age group in years						
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
C51 Other diseases of digestive system	12	—	2	—	4	4	2	—
C52 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
C53 Calculus of urinary system	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
C54 Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
C55 Other diseases of genitourinary system	36	—	2	2	14	11	5	2
C56 Abortions	14	—	—	—	7	7	—	—
C57 Other complications of pregnancy, child-birth and the puerperium	28	—	—	—	19	9	—	—
C58 Delivery without mention of complication	216	—	—	—	108	108	—	—
C59 Infections of skin and subcutaneous tissue	9	—	2	—	2	—	2	3
C60 Other diseases of skin and subcutaneous tissue	5	1	—	—	—	2	1	1
C61 Arthritis and spondylitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
C62 Other diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	6	—	—	1	—	2	3	—
C63 Congenital anomalies	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
C64 Certain causes of perinatal morbidity	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
CN 66 Fractures	16	—	1	3	6	4	2	—
CN 67 Intracranial and internal injuries	15	—	2	2	3	8	—	—
CN 68 Burns	7	2	2	1	2	—	—	—
CN 69 Adverse effects of chemical substances	5	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
CN 70 All other injuries	32	1	3	4	9	12	3	—
Approximately 160 cases were <i>not</i> diagnosed.								

APPENDIX B

Number of Deaths by Causes (List C of I.C.D.) in Hospital, by Age and Sex, 1974

Causes	Total	Age in years										1974	
		Under 28 days	28 days to 11 months	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74		75 and over
All causes	M	16	1	—	—	1	—	4	1	2	2	1	3
C3 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	F	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	
C20 Malignant neoplasms including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	M	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
C23 Diabetes mellitus	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
C36 Cerebrovascular disease	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
C38 Other diseases of circulatory system	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
C41 Pneumonia	F	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
C51 Other diseases of digestive system	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
C64 Certain causes of perinatal morbidity	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
CN Fractures	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
66 Road Traffic Accident	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
CN All other injuries	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
		24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24

APPENDIX C

Population by Age and Sex, with Percentage Distribution, 1970 Census

Age groups (in years)	Number			Percentage		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Total	9,672	5,131	4,541	100	53.05	46.95
Under 1	277	129	148	2.86	1.33	1.53
1-4	1,150	575	575	11.89	5.94	5.94
5-9	1,261	618	643	13.04	6.39	6.65
10-14	1,100	560	540	11.37	5.79	5.58
15-19	958	498	460	9.9	5.15	4.76
20-24	1,080	667	413	11.17	6.9	4.27
25-29	781	436	345	8.07	4.51	3.57
30-34	584	312	272	6.04	3.23	2.81
35-39	421	244	177	4.35	2.52	1.83
40-44	413	229	184	4.27	2.37	1.9
45-49	368	200	168	3.81	2.07	1.74
50-54	329	156	173	3.4	1.61	1.79
55-59	267	144	123	2.76	1.49	1.27
60-64	179	103	76	1.85	1.06	0.79
65-69	182	101	81	1.88	1.04	0.84
70-74	134	65	69	1.39	0.67	0.72
75 and over	188	94	94	1.94	0.97	0.97

Note: Discrepancy between the total of 9,672 in this table and that of 10,030 on page 15 due to the exclusion of a batch of census forms from the Jamaica computer processing.

APPENDIX D

CRIME AND C.I.D.

1. The total number of crime reports investigated during 1974 amounted to 836, of which only 500 were accepted as true. The significant variation from the 1973 figures occurs in Category 5 (Offences against the person) which rose by 53% and in Category 6 (Offences against property) which decreased by 20%. It should be noted that the crime statistics were re-classified in 1973.

2. Comparative figures for the main categories of crime for the period 1970 to 1974 are set out below:

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
<i>Cat. 1 Offences against public order</i>					
True	—	—	—	1	4
Convicted	—	—	—	1	1
Acquitted	—	—	—	—	1
Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	2
Undetected	—	—	—	—	—
Pending.	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cat. 2 Offences against lawful authority</i>					
True	7	2	4	15	13
Convicted	4	—	—	8	11
Acquitted	—	—	—	3	1
Withdrawn	1	1	3	1	—
Undetected	—	—	—	1	—
Pending.	2	1	1	—	1
<i>Cat. 3 Offences injurious to public in general</i>					
True	—	—	—	89	99
Convicted	—	—	—	61	65
Acquitted	—	—	—	7	8
Withdrawn	—	—	—	7	3
Undetected	—	—	—	2	3
Pending.	—	—	—	12	20
<i>Cat. 4 Offences against public morality</i>					
True	11	7	1	3	7
Convicted	—	—	—	1	1
Acquitted	2	1	—	—	1
Withdrawn	—	—	—	—	2
Undetected	6	—	—	—	1
Pending.	2	1	—	2	2

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Cat. 5 Offences against the person					
True	64	111	56	66	101
Convicted	29	48	17	40	55
Acquitted	4	13	—	10	20
Withdrawn	1	12	5	4	4
Undetected	6	6	19	6	2
Pending	4	11	7	6	20
Cat. 6 Offences against property					
True	176	182	258	345	276
Convicted	15	16	16	45	32
Acquitted	5	2	8	6	9
Withdrawn	10	3	11	5	3
Undetected	108	103	168	278	185
Pending	4	3	8	11	47
Cat. 7 Other criminal offences					
True	4	—	—	—	—
Convicted	1	—	—	—	—
Acquitted	—	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn	1	—	—	—	—
Undetected	2	—	—	—	—
Pending	—	—	—	—	—
Local Laws					
True	709	647	469	264	352
Convicted	372	325	314	194	222
Acquitted	105	45	51	19	20
Withdrawn	126	53	24	10	13
Undetected	14	63	23	7	15
Pending	43	161	57	34	82

3. Comparative figures of true reports of offences against local laws for the period 1970 to 1974, are as follows:

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Vehicles and Road Traffic	408	474	346	236	318
Firearms	—	—	—	6	6
Dangerous Drugs	—	—	—	12	16
Treasury	—	—	—	6	8
Protection of Animals	—	—	—	1	1
Immigration and Passport	—	—	—	4	2
Unspecified	301	173	123	—	1
	709	647	469	265	352

Juvenile Delinquency

4. Juvenile delinquency showed a heartening drop in 1974, only one person under the age of 16 being convicted of an offence during 1974 as compared with 41 in 1973. The offence concerned was:

Minor assault against the person 1

No probation service or approved school exists in the Territory.

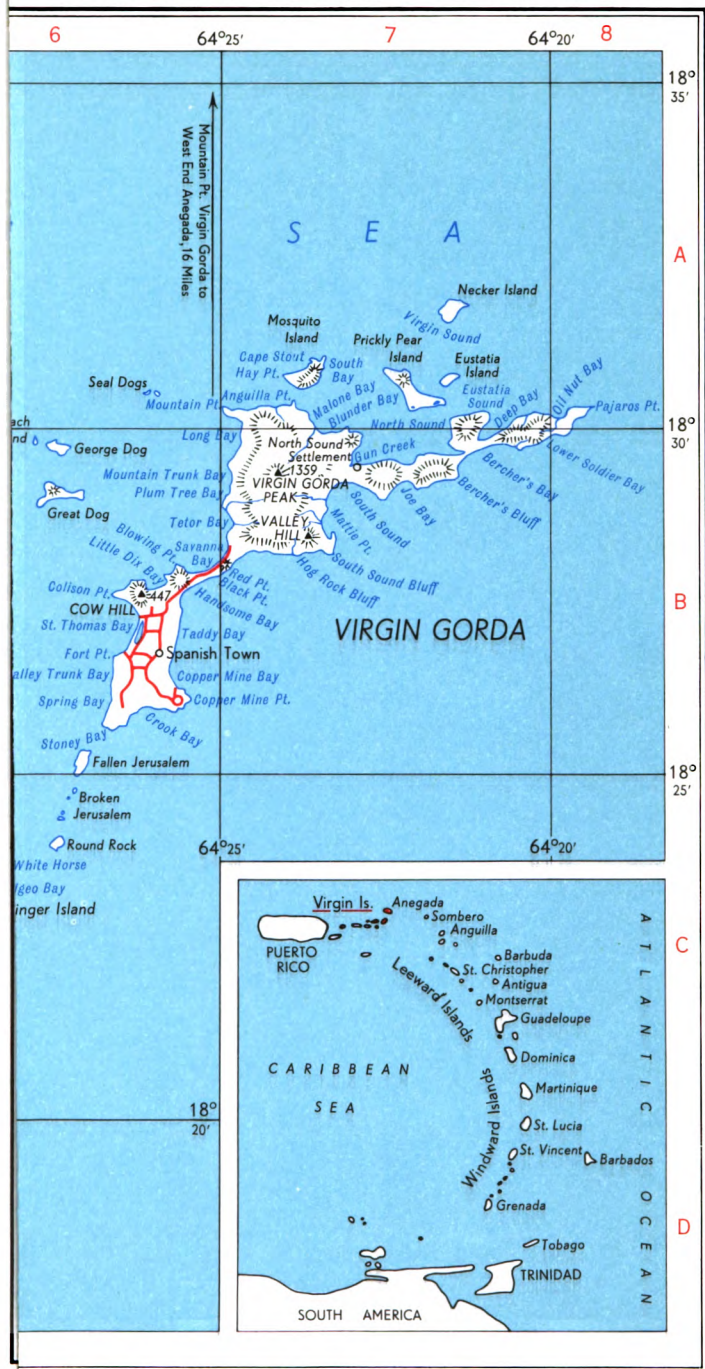
Criminal Investigation Department

5. The incidence of breaking offences decreased from 96 in 1973 to 91 in 1974, and there was an overall decrease of 14·4% in the following offences compared to 1973.

	<i>True Reports</i>	<i>Convictions</i>
Simple larceny	163	15
Robbery	2	2
Breakings	91	10
Frauds	1	—
Receiving and unlawful possession .	3	2
	<hr/> 260	<hr/> 29

6. Every effort is being made to improve the detection rate in simple larceny. Early in 1975 a group of criminals responsible for many breaking offences in 1974 was apprehended.

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